



*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.*

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## P<sup>reface</sup>

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**Pro Bono Legal Fund**  
[www.probonolegalfund.org](http://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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Volume Seven

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PUBLISHER



WILLIAM  
REGINALD  
“REGGIE”  
COLBERT

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



Photo Not  
Available



## DANIEL GEORGE SAMPSON

...was born on April 1, 1918 in Sumter South Carolina. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. For his law degree, he attended Boston

University in Boston, Massachusetts. After completing his education, Sampson enlisted into the United States Army. He served in World War II before being discharged.

After leaving the military, Sampson passed the bar exam and began his legal career practicing law. In 1965, Sampson was named as the Dean of the North Carolina Central University (UNCC) School of Law. He would serve as Dean for four years. In 1967, Dean Sampson wrote a report on the status of African American lawyers in the state of North Carolina. At the time there was one African American attorney for every 12,978 African American citizens while there was one white attorney for every 768 white North Carolina citizens. Sampson's report highlighted and gave statistical information on the enrollments, census figures, and budgets of the legal profession in the state.

In 1968, the North Carolina State Board of Higher Education sought to close the law school at UNCC. The Board were urging then Governor Dan K. Moore to close the school contending that since new desegregation laws had been enacted allowing African Americans to attend the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the law school at UNCC was not needed. He was able to provide statistical information that showed that the law school at the top to schools, North Carolina, Wake Forest, and Duke University combined only had five students in the law schools at that time.

Sampson argued that although blacks were allowed to attend the law school, many did not choosing to enroll into the UNCC law school instead. He was able to show the Board of Higher Education that although admission to the states other three law schools had been opened to blacks, based on past indiscretions many blacks were hesitant to attend the law schools based upon the treatment received by the black students that had attended the desegregated law schools. Sampson successfully argued

the case before the University of North Carolina's General Administration, which allowed the N.C. Central's Law School to remain open.

In Sampson's honor, the North Carolina University named a scholarship in his name, The Daniel G. Sampson Award for Scholarship-Day and Evening Programs. The award is given to a deserving student who has attained the highest academic average after spending three years at the University in the day program. For the evening program, a student must have spent four years of study.

Daniel George Sampson died on August 19, 2000. He was eighty-two years old.



## EDITH SPURLOCK SAMPSON

...was born on October 13, 1898 in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to Elizabeth A. McGruder and Louis Spurlock. She was one of eight children born to the couple. She attended a local Pittsburgh public school until she was fourteen years old when she had to leave school due to family hardships. She

found a job to help support the family working in a fish market.

Spurlock would later return to school to complete her high school requirements, graduating from Pittsburgh's Peabody High School. She married Rufus Sampson, a field engineer for Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama, and took a job working for Associated Charities. While working at the charity organization, Spurlock took undergraduate classes at the New York School of Social Work. She met a New York Columbia University professor, George Kirchwey, who encouraged her to look into a law career.

After completing her studies at the New York school, Sampson and her husband moved to Chicago, Illinois to take care of her deceased sister's two children where she found a full-time position working as a social worker. She enrolled into Chicago's John Marshall Law School taking night classes to earn her law degree. She graduated in 1925 while being awarded a Dean's commendation for ranking at the top of her law class.

In 1924, Sampson opened her own law office on the South Side of Chicago. Her beginning clients were mostly local African American community residents. She was particularly interested in cases involving juveniles. For the next seventeen years, she would be associated with the Juvenile Court of Cook County where she served as a Probation Officer and eventual Assistant Referee in the Juvenile Court.

While serving as a Probation Officer, Sampson took extended law courses at Chicago's Loyola University's Graduate Law School. She earned her Master of Laws degree from Loyola in 1927. She was the first woman and first African American woman to receive a Master of Laws degree from the University. She passed the Illinois State Bar exam that same year. Seven years later, Sampson would be admitted to argue cases before the Illinois State Supreme Court.

Sampson's marriage to Rufus failed and in 1935, she married lawyer Joseph E. Clayton. The two shared a legal practice together until his death in 1957. In 1943, Sampson was admitted as a member of the National Association of Women Lawyers. She was one of the first African American women to be admitted to the association. Four years later, she was appointed as an Assistant State's Attorney in Illinois' Cook County.

In 1949, Sampson was named as a participant in the Round-the-World Town Meeting (RTWTM). The RTWTM was a program designed to send twenty-six prominent Americans on a world tour to meet foreign leaders of foreign countries and to participate in public political debates and radio broadcasts. In her role, Sampson sought to bring an opposing position to the propaganda the Soviet Union was promoting during the Cold War that centered on the treatment of "Negroes in America".

In one meeting held in India, Sampson took the position that although years before, Negroes were enslaved and illiterate but since freedom was gained in 1965, blacks have advanced considerably and have done so outpacing other countries where servitude had existed in similar groups.

As a living example of the progress, she gave insight to the positive achievements of blacks and not that shown to the world of all blacks being downtrodden and desolate. She went on to say that the plight of the blacks in the United States, although bad, was not as bad as the treatment given to some of India's citizens under the country's caste system. She told the crowd that she would rather be a Negro in the United States than be a citizen of any other country. Returning to the United States, then U.S. Supreme Court Justice William O. Douglas gave Sampson applause and stated that her remarks and position taken created more good will between the two countries and her actions facilitated that and was more exacting than any other act performed by an American citizen.

Sampson did get some rebuke for her statements when the Baltimore Afro-American newspaper called for more democracy for blacks here in the United States. Despite anyone disagreements to her position, she then attacked the Soviet Union comparing its' system of enslaving prisoners of war from World War II to slavery. She told a Soviet Ambassador, Yakov Malik, that blacks in America were not interested in Communism since they had already been freed from slavery years before.

Because of her stance on race relations and her achievements on the Town Meeting Tour, in 1950, then President Harry Truman appointed Sampson as an Alternate U.S. Delegate to the United Nation (U.N.) in New York City. She became the first African American to officially represent the United States at the U.N.. At the U.N., Sampson served as a member of the U.N.'s Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee. As a member, she lobbied for support of social welfare. She also presented a U.N. resolution to pressure the Soviet Union to repatriate the remainder of its Prisoners of War from World War II. Sampson was re-appointed to the U.N. in 1952.

After leaving her post at the U.N., Sampson was named by then U.S. President Dwight D. Eisenhower as a member of the U.S. Commission for the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO). Several years later, she was appointed as a U.S. Representative to the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO). She was the first African American to represent the U.S. in NATO.

In 1959, Sampson became dissatisfied with the growing racial climate in the U.S. and changed her politics from the position she held before. She spoke to a class of African American high school students and told them that the battle against racial injustice must take on other means of achievement than the one they had been using. She realized that the current method of gaining changes piece by piece through changes in the law and through court appeals may not be the best method of achieving changes needed for African Americans.

In 1962, at the age of sixty-one, Sampson made a run for a seat on the Municipal Court of Chicago as an Associate Judge. She easily won the race and became the first African American woman to be elected as a Judge in the state of Illinois by popular vote. Four years later, she became an Associate Judge for the Circuit Court of Cook County, again becoming the first African American woman to achieve that feat. The majority of the cases that came before her dealt with housing disputes involving poor tenants. She retired from the bench in 1978.

Judge Sampson served as the President of the Chicago Professional Women's Club, as President of the Afro-World Fellowship, and as President of the Women's Progressive Committee. She gave time to the League of Women Voters, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People, and the National Council of Negro Women. She also served as a member of the Chicago Urban League.

Judge Edith Spurlock Sampson died on October 8, 1979. She was eighty years old.



## THOMAS "TOM" G. SAMPSON

...was raised in Durham, North Carolina where his father, Daniel George Sampson served as a law professor and as the Dean at North Carolina Central University's Law School. The younger Sampson re-

ceived his Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. He attended the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he obtained his Juris Doctor degree. He went on to gain further education at the London School of Economics as a member of the Society of International Business Fellows.

Sampson currently serves as the Managing Partner of Thomas, Kennedy, Sampson, & Tompkins LLP in Atlanta, Georgia. The law firm is Georgia's oldest minority-owned law firm. Sampson has successfully represented several Fortune 500 corporations, city municipalities, and private citizens over his more than thirty-five year career. He successfully represented the City of Atlanta in litigations as well as representing the State of Georgia in another case. His expertise lies in personal injury, wrongful death and medical malpractice litigation.

Sampson was appointed to serve on a special panel created by then Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin to evaluate the Atlanta Municipal Court and the City Court of Atlanta. He was later appointed by then Attorney General Thurbert Baker as a Special Assistant to the Attorney General for the State of Georgia.

For his service to the legal profession, Sampson was inducted into the Georgia Chapter of the American Board of Trial Advocates. He was the first African American to be inducted on the Board. He has been listed as one of "The Best Lawyers in America" by the Atlanta Magazine and has remained on the list since 1993. He has served as a Master in both the Bleckley and Logan Inns of the American Inns of Court. The Litigation Counsel of America inducted Sampson as a Charter Fellow, an achievement given to less than one half of one percent of American attorneys.

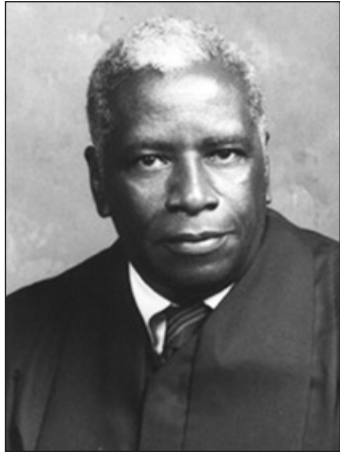
Sampson has been named a Georgia "Super Lawyer" since the inception of the list was established. His alma mater, Morehouse awarded Sampson with its' Bennie

Trailblazer Award, the highest level of recognition awarded to an alumni by the College. At one of their basketball games, The Atlanta Hawks professional basketball team, during a halftime show, honored Sampson by presenting him with a Trailblazer Award.

Sampson has served as a Board Member of the Board of Councilors for the Carter Center, the Atlanta Urban League, and Senior Citizens Services of Metropolitan Atlanta. He has served as the President of the Gate City Bar Association, as President of the Atlanta Legal Aid Society, as Vice President of the State Bar of Georgia Disciplinary Board, and as Vice President of the Atlanta Council of Younger Lawyers. Sampson has served as a charter member and Vice Chairman of the Neighborhood Justice Center, as Chairman of the State Bar of Georgia Client Security Fund, and as the Regional Director of the National Bar Association.

Sampson has served as a Former Master to the Logan E. Bleckley Inn of Court and the Joseph Henry Lumpkin Inn of Court. He is a Charter Fellow to the Litigation Counsel of America and a Fellow to the Lawyers Foundation of Georgia. He has served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Atlanta's Georgia State University and as an Instructor at the Atlanta College of Trial Advocacy. In addition, Sampson has served as a Barrister to the Logan E. Bleckley Inn of the American Inns of Court.





**JAMES  
BERNARD  
SANDERLIN**

...was born on January 2, 1929 in Petersburg, Virginia to Lillie and Willis Elijah Sanderlin. He was the third son of his school teaching mother and his Baptist minister father. His childhood upbringing was a bit different than other African American boys as both of his parents

were educated and his relatively privileged life steered him toward the law at an early age.

Sanderlin grew up in a mixed race middle class neighborhood interacting with white children. He attended a private but segregated black school where he learned African American history and the importance of knowing that history. He read at an early age stories of Fredrick Douglass, W. E. B. Du Bois, and Sojourner Truth, as well as other significant African American contributors to the black community. His Christian upbringing gave him a sense of purpose and the drive to make a positive impact on society having a caring and benevolent heart.

As he entered his teenage years, the interaction between his white neighbors and Sanderlin began to dwindle. It was customary for white parents to allow their children to play with African American children until the age of puberty, especially with white girls. It was then that the white parents began to teach their children a different value, one of Southern white pride and the separation of races. Sanderlin's family then decided to move further North to Washington, D.C..

After completing high school attending a local D.C. public school, Sanderlin enrolled into D.C.'s Howard University to begin his undergraduate studies. Before completing his degree, unable to afford to continue, he left to take several jobs including working as a helicopter repairman and as a worker in the fish market owned by his brother, Willis. Willis had graduated earlier from Howard with a Master's in Business Administration. With savings made from his hiatus from Howard, he returned to the university to complete his undergraduate work. He would earn his undergraduate degree and a Master's degree in Political Science in 1957.

Sanderlin then entered the Boston University School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts where he completed his law degree studies in 1958. After earning his law degree, he was recruited by African American attorney Fred Minnis, an alumnus of Howard's Law School, to join his Tampa, Florida law firm. Sanderlin accepted and clerked for Minnis while studying to pass the Florida Bar exam, which he passed in 1963.

After clerking for Minnis, Sanderlin left the law firm of Minnis & Williams, P.A. to form his own law practice with fellow African American attorneys Frank White and Frank Peterman in the firm of White, Peterman and Sanderlin, P.A.. The firm

struggled in the beginning as African American attorneys were overlooked in favor of more established white law firms located in downtown Tampa. The tides turned for the law firm when it took on the task of desegregating the Pinellas County Schools.

At the time, Black students attended Gibbs High School and many in the African American community wanted to keep the school segregated separate while other members of the African American community wanted integration with white schools seeking the opportunity for a better education. Despite death threats and vocal opposition from members of both the black and white community, over the next ten years, Sanderlin, his team of gifted lawyers, and lawyers from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Legal Defense and Educational Fund (LDF) litigated the suit that eventually desegregated the public schools in Pinellas, Hillsborough, and Sarasota counties.

During the segregation fight, then Governor LeRoy Collins started the Fabinski Committee created to devise a strategic plan to avoid integration in Florida's schools after the passing of the legendary "Brown v. Board of Education" decision. At the same time, the Pinellas County School Board failed to integrate its' schools with deliberate speed as the Brown decision stipulated. In January of 1965, Florida District Court Judge Joseph Lieb signed an order forcing the County to eliminate dual attendance zones and to reassign students, faculty, and other key personnel to various schools and for the assignments to not be based on color.

In another important Florida case, in 1968, Sanderlin represented some two hundred Tampa sanitation workers who had launched a strike demanding better working conditions. The city had fired the workers because of the strike and Sanderlin was chosen to assist them in their litigations against the city. He successfully negotiated and settled the labor dispute with eighty-six of the striking employees being rehired and working conditions were improved. Those not immediately rehired were either compensated, assigned to other city employment, or were rehired at a later date.

In 1972, Sanderlin was elected to the bench in Pinellas County. He became the first African American attorney to be elected to the County Court. Three years later, he was elected to serve on the Circuit Court of Pinellas and Pasco Counties. Judge Sanderlin again was the first African American to serve on the Circuit Court. In 1986, he would be appointed to the Florida District Court of Appeals, the first African American Judge to hold that position.

For his years of service to Tampa and Pinellas County, the County School Board named an elementary school after Judge Sanderlin. The James Sanderlin Elementary is located at 2350 22nd Avenue South in St. Petersburg, Florida. In recognizing his contributions to the legal profession and residents of Florida, members of the Florida House of Representatives gave a standing ovation during a ceremony to induct Judge Sanderlin into the Florida Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

Judge James Bernard Sanderlin died on April 22, 1990. He was sixty-one years old.



**JAWN  
ARDIN  
SANDIFER**

...was born on June 6, 1914 in Greensboro, North Carolina to Nettie and Charles Sandifer. He was one of nine children. He attended Johnson C. Smith University in Charlotte, North Carolina graduating in 1935. As a

freshman at Smith, Sandifer became the first freshman to make the school's varsity debate team. He joined the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity as well. He received his law degree from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. in 1938.

To fulfill his military duties, Sandifer enlisted into the United States Army Air Corps. He served in World War II working in the Air Corps Criminal Division. After being discharged from the military, Sandifer returned to North Carolina. Following the teachings he had learned at Howard, he began to pursue a legal career centered on civil rights and accepted a job with the legal staff of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

In 1949, Sandifer left North Carolina and moved to New York City, New York to work as the Legal Redress Chairman of the New York state branch of the NAACP and worked alongside the legendary civil rights attorney and later U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. In one of his early cases for the NAACP, Sandifer was one of the two lawyers that represented Elmer W. Henderson in a case heard before the United States Supreme Court. Working on behalf of the NAACP, Sandifer argued the case of Henderson v. United States, which set the precedent for the landmark case of Brown v. Board of Education, which ended school segregation. In a successful 8-0 U.S. Supreme Court decision, Sandifer was able to end the desegregation of separate eating cars for black and white passengers while traveling on interstate railway cars in the South of American. The Court ruled that such practices was unconstitutional, which paved the way for integrated travel across state lines on trains, including dining cars.

In 1964, Sandifer successfully argued a case in New York Courts, which ended segregation of the Manhasset School District in Nassau County. That same year, then

New York Mayor Robert F. Wagner appointed him to the New York Civil Court. After serving for four years on the Court, Sandifer was elected as a Justice to the State Supreme Court in Manhattan. He would serve the court for the next twenty-eight years.

In 1986, Justice Sandifer made a ruling in his Manhattan courtroom that ended discrimination for women seeking to work for the New York City Sanitation Department as a garbage worker. He ruled that the Civil Service Test given to potential workers was discriminatory against women. His ruling allowed women to be hired as sanitation workers for the first time in the city's history. Prior to his ruling, city residents did not have to bag their garbage and the city used heavy trashcans. With the new polity of bagging, garbage workers did not have to lift heavy containers but lighter trash bags and the job was suitable for women and Justice Sandifer ruled accordingly.

In 2005, Judge Sandifer was recognized by the New York State Bar Association in a tribute to the New York attorneys who made legal history during the civil rights era. He received numerous other awards, including the Justice Award from the NAACP for his lifetime of working toward achieving equal opportunity for all people.

Justice Sandifer was one that many did not forget. His blue eyes against his dark skin made him noticeable and his desire to right the wrongs of segregation and discriminatory practices gave him presence. He was married to his wife Laura who died in 1993 from colon cancer. Together, they had one son, Floyd. Justice Sandifer later married Elsa Krueger.

Justice Sandifer was a gifted writer and penned several books. He wrote "Minorities USA" and "The Afro-American in United States History". He was an avid reader and enjoyed reading biographies. Justice Sandifer was an avid golfer and was a long time member of the Noyac Golf Club in Sag Harbor, New York. In his later years, he was a member of the Rolling Green Golf Course in Sarasota, Florida.

Justice Jawn Ardin Sandifer died on September 01, 2006. He was ninety-two years old.





## CHARLES SCARLETT

...was born in Greensboro, North Carolina. He received his undergraduate degree from Washington, D.C.'s Howard University in 1949. He obtained his law degree from Washington Univer-

sity in St. Louis, Missouri. He was the first African American student to attend the law school graduating in 1951.

After completing his law degree, Scarlett joined the military. To fulfill his military duties, he joined the United States Marines. He served in World War II while being stationed in the South Pacific.

After passing the state bar, Scarlett married his wife Charmaine and the two moved to San Francisco, California. Arriving in San Francisco, Scarlett opened a law firm with Ed McSweeney. After several years practicing law in San Francisco, Scarlett decided to relocate to Los Angeles, California where he opened a law firm of Earl C. Broady Sr. as a partner. In joining forces with Broady, the firm became known as Broady, Scarlett & Brody. Years later, Scarlett would part ways with his partners and form the law firm of Scarlett & Roberson. He remained as a practicing attorney for the firm for the next twenty-seven years before being appointed to the bench.

In 1980, Governor Jerry Brown named Scarlett as a Los Angeles Superior Court Judge. Was appointed to the bench, Scarlett left his law firm, which had grown to become one of the largest African American law firms in the country. The law firm would become Ivie, McNeill & Wyatt, APLC and would go on to produce several judges from the practicing attorneys with the firm.

Judge Scarlett was assigned to preside over juvenile delinquency cases, predominately in the courts of Inglewood, California. He was a kind and compassionate man who truly cared for the juveniles that came before his bench. He understood the communities that the children came from and urged them to rise up and make something of their lives despite the conditions or predicaments they have found themselves in. Scarlett was a firm man and maintained a professional manner in his adjudications. He was fair to the attorneys that argued cases before him and kept them focused on the points and facts of the case.

Judge Scarlett would sit on the bench for thirteen years retiring in 1993. He continued to serve the Inglewood Court in retirement where he had been assigned to the Juvenile Court. He served on various courts in Los Angeles County through his 91st birthday.

Judge Scarlett received numerous awards and honors during his tenure on the bench. He received several awards from the State of California, from the City of Los Angeles, and from Los Angeles County. California State Senator Diane Watson gave tribute to Judge Scarlett as did California U.S. House of Representatives' member Julian Dixon, who placed an honorarium in the Congressional Record on behalf of Judge Scarlett.

Judge Scarlett served on the Board of Directors of the Los Angeles County Bar Association as well as other legal organizations. He was a Fellow of the Century Club for more than twenty years. Judge Scarlett was married for sixty-four years to his wife Charmaine. Together, they had four children.

Judge Charles Scarlett died on January 21, 2017. He was ninety-two years old.



## KURT LIDELL SCHMOKE

...was born on December 1, 1949 in Baltimore, Maryland to Irene B. Reid and Murray Schmoke. His mother worked as a social worker and his father was a civilian chemist for the United States Army. He attended the public schools of Baltimore City where he graduated from

the Baltimore City College, the third oldest high school in the United States. It was also the largest high school in the state of Maryland when Schmoke graduated in 1967.

In high school, he was a gifted athlete starring in football and lacrosse. He was the quarterback of his junior varsity and varsity football team where he led the team to two undefeated seasons and Maryland Scholastic Association A-conference Champions in 1965 and 1966. Academically, he was a member of the Baltimore City College "A-course", which consisted of a college preparatory curriculum that required him to take Latin and other advanced studies. He also served as the President of the Student Government in his senior year and mentored other city youth as a member of the Lancers Boys Club.

After high school graduation, Schmoke entered Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut continuing his football play and was the starting quarterback of the freshman team. He was a co-founder of a campus day care center for children of campus janitors and cafeteria workers who lived near the Yale campus. The center was named after fellow student and future professional football player, Calvin Hill.

In the wake of a campus riot in 1970 after the trial of several Black Panther Party leaders, Schmoke is credited with quelling a potential disturbance. As Secretary of his class, he was called upon by school administrators to speak to the students set on shutting down the campus. He did so briefly although that was enough for the school administrators to bend their student rules and the semester ended with only a few outbreaks.

Schmoke graduated from Yale in 1971 earning an undergraduate degree in History. His academic excellence won him a Rhodes scholarship and he spent time studying at Oxford University in Oxfordshire, England. For his law degree, Schmoke attended Harvard University's Law School where he obtained his Juris Doctorate degree in 1976.

To begin his legal career, Schmoke joined his hometown law firm of Piper and Marbury. A year later, he was selected as a member of the White House Domestic Policy Staff during the administration of President Jimmy Carter. He was assigned to perform work for the Department of Transportation. After serving in the Carter administration for a year, Schmoke returned to Baltimore to accept a job as an Assistant United States Attorney. He would remain in the U.S. Attorney's office for three years.

In 1982, Schmoke decided to make a run for elected office. He challenged incumbent Baltimore City State's Attorney William A. Swisher for the head job in the office. Schmoke was

victorious in his bid for the office winning the job by a landslide. Five years later, he decided to make a run for the top job in Baltimore, that as Mayor of the city.

On November 3, 1987, Schmoke was elected as the Mayor of Baltimore City. He became the first African American Mayor of the city. He would serve as the Mayor of Baltimore for three terms.

As mayor, he became an opponent of the federal "War on Drugs" taking a more moderate approach calling for drug decriminalization. He initiated programs that focused on the housing problems of the city, its' education shortfalls, the city's public health crises, and the economic development of local businesses and other community central needs. To help with the security of African American neighborhoods that had issues with racial profiling and community based policing, he employed Nation of Islam security guards for local housing projects, as many of the their members lived in the same neighborhoods they were hired to protect. He improved the living conditions of those living in the projects and introduced a needle exchange program for the city residents that injected drugs as a means of stemming transmittable diseases from shared needle use. Schmoke is also credited with keeping the tax rate stable, which ultimately attracted a professional football team to return to the city, the Baltimore Ravens.

In 1992, then President George H. W. Bush presented Schmoke with the National Literacy Award for his dedicated work promoting adult literacy. Two years later, newly elected President Bill Clinton gave praise to Schmoke for the city's programs aimed at improving public housing and the city's community economic development growth. For his efforts, Baltimore was named as one of six cities to receive Empowerment Zone designation.

In 1997, Schmoke was named as a committee member for the Rudy Bruner Award for Urban Excellence. He was an advocate for school choice and for the school voucher program. In 1999, after serving for three terms, Schmoke decided not to run for a fourth term and retired as Mayor of Baltimore.

After leaving the Mayor's Office, Schmoke returned to private practice joining the law firm of Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering in Baltimore. In 2003, he accepted the position as Dean of the Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C.. A year later, he was named as an Honorary Fellow to Balliol College at Oxford University in England.

Schmoke has served on the Board of Directors of Global Rights, an international human rights organization, and as a member of the Christian and Missionary Alliance. He has served as the Acting Senior Vice President of Academic Matters at Howard University, a position that gave him Provost powers and has served as the University's Vice President and General Counsel. In 2014, Schmoke was named as the President of the University of Baltimore.

Schmoke's recognitions and awards are far to lengthy to be listed in these pages. His involvement with private organizations, municipalities, and legal associations is vast and his dedicated service to community affairs is long. He has served on many social service committees that have brought benevolence to city residents in Baltimore and across the country.





**G**REGORY  
KELLAM  
SCOTT

...was born on July 30, 1943 in San Francisco, California to Althea Delores and Robert Scott. After completing his high school requirements, Scott attended Rutgers College of Agriculture and Environment Science in New Brunswick, New Jersey where he received a Bachelor

of Science degree in Environmental Science. He received a graduate degree from Rutgers and received his law degree from Indiana University School of Law-Indianapolis.

Scott's legal career began when he accepted a position as a trial attorney for the Securities and Exchange Commission in their Denver office. In 1980, he became a member of the teaching faculty at the University of Denver College of Law. He taught federal securities regulation as it relates to corporations. He also Chaired the Law School's Business Planning Program. He also served as a consultant and Appellate Counsel in cases involving government contracting, corporate and securities laws.

In 1992, then Governor Roy Romer appointed Scott to the Colorado State Supreme Court. He was sworn in on January 15, 1993. With his appointment, he became the first African-American to serve on the Court. Scott re-ran for the Supreme Court seat in the next general election of 1996. The voters turned out in droves and overwhelmingly re-elected him to the ten-year post. In that election, Scott received the highest number of retention votes ever cast for any judicial officer. He would serve the Court for seven of the ten year post, ultimately resigning to accept an appointment as Vice President and General Counsel of Kaiser-Hill Company, L.L.C., a Colorado general contracting company offering nuclear decontamination and environmental restoration services.

While serving on the Court, Scott participated in determining the outcomes of over one thousand cases and authored several opinions for the Court. One such opinion centered on the case of Hill v. Thomas, which involved the protesting of abortion clinics. The Colorado Courts had legislated that it was illegal for any protestors within one hundred feet of any health-care facility to approach within eight feet any other person, for the purpose of protesting, educating, counseling, or distributing any literature with the person's consent. The Colorado law was appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, citing that the law violated the protestor's first and fourteenth Amendment rights. The U.S. Supreme Court upheld the Colorado law.

After leaving the bench and accepting the Vice Presidency of Kaiser-Hill, Scott would direct the legal affairs of the company. Kaiser-Hill was a U.S. federal contractor having contracts with the U.S. Department of Energy. One such contract called

for the company to manage the clean up of the former Rocky Flats nuclear weapons facility located just outside of Denver. The facility, which manufactured the plutonium detonators used in nuclear bombs, had operated from 1952 through 1989. Nuclear production at the facility had been halted amid an environmental investigation of the plant's owner, Rockwell International Corporation. Scott and Kaiser-Hill held the responsibility of remediation and related activities.

Scott was selected to serve as Co-Chair of an American delegation that traveled to Gabon, Africa to observe the national presidential elections that occurred there in 1997. That same year, in preparation for the upcoming 2000 National Summit on Africa to be held in Washington, D.C., Scott Co-Chaired a Regional Summit, held in Denver, Colorado, along with then Governor Bill Owens and Denver Mayor Wellington Webb. Other Regional Summits were held in the cities of Baltimore, Boston, Chicago and Denver. Also in 1997, Scott became a member of the National Board of Directors of the Constituency for Africa.

Justice Scott has lent his legal expertise to other corporate companies and private institutions since leaving the bench. He has been a member of the faculty of the Practicing Law Institute of the Annual Federal Securities Institute, which convenes in New York City annually. He has served on the Executive Committee of the Appellate Judges Conference, an association of federal and state appellate Judges. He has served as Vice President and General Counsel for Commercial Energies, Inc., a privately held energy company that provides natural gas to Department of Defense agencies under federal contracts.

In 2002, Scott began to serve as an Independent Trustee of various funds in the Icon Fund. That year, he accepted a position as Senior Vice President of Law, Secretary and General Counsel with corporate giant GenCorp, a multinational, technology-based manufacturer based in Sacramento, California. GenCorp holds a leading position in the automotive, aerospace defense, and pharmaceutical fine chemical industries. After two years with GenCorp, now Aerojet Rocketdyne Holdings, Inc., he moved to a Consulting position with the firm.

In 2005, Scott served as an Executive Director of Indiana Civil Rights Commission. He served the Commission for three years. In 2006, he was selected to be a part of the U.S. State Department's Commission on the African Judiciary.

Scott is a member of many organizations including the National Board of Directors of the Constituency for Africa (CFA). Other prestigious members of the Board include past Ambassador Andrew Young, past Congressman Ron Dellums, past Congressman Jack Kemp, and past New York Mayor David Dinkins. Scott has been a member of the administrative teams at Rutgers University and Trenton State College, both located in New Jersey.

Scott has received many honors and awards. A few of them include, The Blacks in Colorado inducted him into their Hall of Fame. He received "Distinguished Alumni" status from Rutgers University and the University of Denver bestowed upon him an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree.



**C**HARLES  
WILLIAM  
SCRUTCHIN

...is believed to have been born on September 11, 1866 in Richmond, Virginia to Barbara Grafrene and William Scrutchin. When he was ten years old, the family moved to Atlanta, Georgia

where they remained for several years before relocating to Spokane, Washington. He completed his high school studies in Spokane before enrolling into the University of Washington in Seattle, Washington where he completed his undergraduate degree in three years.

After completing his undergraduate degree requirements, Scrutchin took a job working as a Pullman train car porter for the Great Northn Railway traveling between Buffalo, New York; Detroit, Michigan; and St. Paul, Minnesota and between St. Paul and Tacoma, Washington. Scrutchin met and married his wife, Rachel, although they would divorce when he decided to move to Michigan to attend law school, as Rachel did not want to move away from Spokane.

Nonetheless, Scrutchin enrolled into the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor where he earned his law degree in 1893. After completing the law degree requirements, he moved to Chicago, Illinois where he began his legal professional career. He found a job in the law office of E.H. Morris

In 1894, Scrutchin returned to the University of Michigan where he earned his Master of Laws degree. After practicing law in Michigan for four years, he moved back to St. Paul. Arriving in St. Paul, he met two other African American attorneys, Frederick McGhee and William T. Francis and began a friendship. Scrutchin would move further north to Bemidji, Minnesota to open another law firm.

In 1900, while building his law practice, Scrutchin married Laura P. Arnold. He focused his legal practice on criminal law and during his first year in Bemidji, he won an acquittal for a man charged with stealing ten tons of hay. In another case tried in Duluth, Minnesota, Scrutchin represented William Miller, one of eleven African American men accused and arrested in the rape of a white Duluth woman.

The case, which became known as the Duluth Lynching, saw three of Miller's co-workers hung by a white mob of approximately 5,000. Scrutchin was able to obtain an acquittal of Miller's charges after calling as a witness a physician who had examined the white girl and found no evidence of a rape or assault. With the physician's testimony, Scrutchin's client, Miller, was found innocent. His acquittal resulted in the charges against the remaining defendants to be dismissed. Unfortunately, the three men hung by the mob were not able to face trial, which would have resulted in proving their innocence.

Scrutchin went on to become a very successful attorney and build a respectable practice. Because of the success, he was able to purchase two homes and an office building in Bemidji. He was a registered Republican and practicing Unitarian. He was a member of the Masonic Temple and served as a member of the Odd Fellows.

Charles W. Scrutchin died on July 14, 1930 of dropsy/apoplexy. He was sixty-three years old.





**F**RANK  
SEALES, JR.

... was born in Daytona Beach and graduated from Campbell Senior High School in 1967. He received his undergraduate degree in Political Science from Tennessee State University in Nashville, Tennessee 1971. He then enrolled into the Indiana University School of Law

in Bloomington, Indiana where he obtained his Juris Doctorate degree in 1974.

After passing the bar, Seales began his legal career working as a trial attorney for the Antitrust Division of the United States Department of Justice (DOJ). He remained as a trial attorney with the DOJ for fourteen years. He then left the DOJ and the federal government moving into the state government arena taking a job as a Senior Assistant Attorney General and Chief of Antitrust and Consumer Litigation for the State of Virginia. While working for the state of Virginia, Seales is credited with recovering \$11 million in civil penalties for the state and saving the Virginia Commonwealth another \$6.8 million in savings from its' annual expenditures.

In 1998, then President Bill Clinton appointed Seales as the Chief Counsel of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA). With his appointment, Seales became the first African-American to hold the position of Chief Counsel to the NHTSA. As Chief Counsel, Seales was responsible for the investigation into the Firestone tire case, which led to a tire recall of Firestone tires. The recall became the largest recall in the history of the NHTSA. He also oversaw the settlement agreement of NHTSA's two largest civil penalties ever imposed on a major automobile tire manufacturer and automobile manufacturers for the failure to make timely recalls of their malfunctioning products.

After three years as Chief Counsel at the NHTSA, Seales accepted the position as General Counsel of the District of Columbia Department of Transportation. As General Counsel, Seales was responsible for all transactional and policy matters for the District of Columbia, including federal legislation, regulations, rate control matters, and interagency matters. He also oversaw the Administration's legal agreements and contracts.

Seales has served the legal profession outside of his job as Chief and General Counsel to federal, state and district entities. He has served as Vice President of the National Bar Association and as Treasurer of the National Bar Institute. He also has served as Vice President for the Friends Association for Children and as the General Counsel for the National Coalition of Black Meeting Planners.

During his legal career, Seales has focused his expertise to the fields of antitrust and trade regulation, consumer protection, state and local government law. Of course, he is one of the nation's leading attorneys on transportation law. In 2006, the Indiana University School of Law inducted Seales into its' Academy of Law Alumni Fellows.



**L**EAH  
WARD  
SEARS

...was born on June 13, 1955 in Heidelberg, Germany to Onnye Jean Sears and Thomas E. Sears, a U.S. Army Colonel. As an child of a military officer, Sears's family was stationed all around the world until she was sixteen years old. They eventually chose Savannah, Georgia to settling in.

Sears graduated from Savannah High School. To begin her collegiate education, Sears chose to attend Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. She graduated in 1976, with a Bachelor Science degree. While at Cornell, she became a member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority and the Quill and Dagger society. After graduation, she married Love Collins III and they had two children, Addison and Brennan. She then changed her name to Leah Collins-Sears, however, after their divorce in 1994, she reverted back to Leah Sears.

She graduated in 1980 from Emory University's Law School in Atlanta receiving a Juris Doctor degree. In 1995, she received a Master of Laws degree from the University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville. Her first job in the legal field was as an attorney with the Atlanta law firm of Alston & Bird. She worked there from 1980 until 1985. She was also an Adjunct Professor of Law at Emory University's School of Law.

In 1995, then Mayor Andrew Young appointed Sears to the City of Atlanta Traffic Court. In 1988, at the age of thirty-two, she became a Superior Court judge, the state of Georgia, the youngest person ever elected. In 1992, she was appointed as a State Supreme Court Justice. In the later general election, although it was a close race, she was elected to occupy the seat, becoming the first woman to win a contested statewide election in Georgia. In 2004, after twelve years on the bench, the Georgia Republican Party and Georgia Christian Coalition made a push to unseat Sears, however, she easily won the election with an overwhelming sixty-two percent of the vote and in June of 2005, she became Chief Justice of the Court, the first woman and youngest Justice ever.

After serving for three years, Sears announced her resignation from the State Supreme Court effective at the end of her term in June of 2009. She was then put on a

short list to become the Dean of the University of Maryland School of Law. Making the list of five possible candidates, she withdrew her name from consideration in order to pursue other opportunities. She accepted a fellowship at the Institute for American Values in New York City, a think tank focusing on family and social issues. She also taught at the University of Georgia Law School focusing on family law.

Sears eventually joined the law firm of Schiff Hardin in Atlanta handling the firm's appellate and white-collar crime cases. She founded the Georgia Association of Black Women Attorneys and the Columbus branch of the Battered Women's Project. She also active member of many community Boards and sits on the Board of the Institute for American Values. She is the recipient of many awards and honors, including Georgia Trend Magazine's, "100 Most Influential Georgians", the American Bar Association's Margaret Brent Women Lawyers of Achievement Award, the Excellence in Public Service Award from the Georgia Coalition of Black Women, and the Rosalynn Carter Fellow in Public Policy Award.

Sears holds honorary degrees from Clark-Atlanta University, LaGrange College, Morehouse College, Piedmont College, and Spelman College. She is friends with Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas, having a commonality in the fact that both of them are from southeastern Georgia.

Sears currently lives in Atlanta, Georgia with her husband Haskell Ward, former Deputy Mayor of New York City under Mayor Ed Koch.





## SOLOMON SEAY, JR

...was born on December 2, 1931, in Montgomery, Alabama. His mother was a school-teacher and his father was a civil rights activist and a Minister for the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church.

Drawn to activism by his father and inspired by a junior high school teacher, Seay, Jr., always wanted to be a lawyer. He once recounted about his decision to become a lawyer in a story about that junior high school teacher reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The last part of the pledge she said, “to the flag with liberty and justice for those who got the guts to grab it!”. It was at that point he thought that if he could go to law school and practice law, he “could stop the world and get the rules right.”

After completing high school, Seay attended Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina graduating in 1952. He then enrolled into Howard University’s School of Law in Washington, D.C.. At that time, the state of Alabama did not allow blacks to attend any law schools in the state, so the Alabama state government paid his tuition, room and board, books and cost of living expenses so that he would apply to any law schools in Alabama.

After enrolling, Seay had to take twenty-one months off to serve in the U.S. Army. After his duties were satisfied, he returned to Howard graduating in 1957. Upon completion of his degree requirements, he returned to Montgomery and began preparing to take the Alabama bar exam. He passed the exam on his first attempt.

Opening his own practice, he was one of only three black attorneys in Montgomery. He operated his law firm until June of 1964 when attorney Fred Gray approached him to join his firm. Gray represented many civil rights cases including that of Rosa Parks who refusal to give up her bus seat to a white man which sparked the year-long Montgomery Boycott that would result in the desegregation of the Montgomery public transportation system.

In one of Seay’s first cases in 1957, he represented Mark Gilmore, a young man who had been arrested, beaten and held prisoner for taking a shortcut across the all-white neighborhood of Oak Park. Seay filed a class action desegregation lawsuit against the City of Mont-

gomery. Rather than desegregate the city’s parks, the city chose to close all Montgomery’s parks to the Public. The stayed closed for the next nine years.

Another important case handled by Seay was the case of *The New York Times v. Sullivan*. Montgomery Police Commissioner L.B. Sullivan, had sued the newspaper and four African-American Ministers for printing a defamatory story about him, written by Bayard Rustin. One of the Ministers, happened to be Seay’s father, Reverend Solomon Seay Sr.. The others were Ralph Abernathy, Fred Shuttlesworth and Joseph Lowery, all civil rights activist. Seay Jr. and his new partner Gray Fred represented the four Ministers.

Sullivan originally won the case in an Alabama court but *The New York Times* Appealed. The argued that the U.S. Constitution’s first amendment protected them and they had the right to print the advertisement. The Alabama ruling was reversed resulting in U.S. libel law was being rewritten.

One other landmark case that Seay oversaw was the 1964 Alabama Supreme Court case of *Lee v. the Macon County Board of Education*. The was a pivotal civil rights case that sought the integration of the all-white Tuskegee High School in Macon County, Alabama. The initial lawsuit, filed in 1963, was expanded to include all of the Alabama’s primary and secondary schools, all two-year postsecondary schools, and every public university. Seay and his team celebrated another win when a three-judge federal District Court issued a blanket desegregation order in the case. On appeal, the decision was upheld by the U.S. Supreme Court in *Wallace v. United States*. The initial case filed by Seay became the blueprint for school desegregation throughout the United States..

For the next two decades, the Seay fought for the rights of African-Americans, specific to racial discrimination in the work place, harassment by hate groups, and police brutality. He handled cases involving the Selma to Montgomery March, the Freedom Riders, other civil rights cases. In his fifty-year career, Seay became a hallmark protecting the civil rights of blacks from the injustices of the Jim Crow laws of the Deep South. In 2009, Seay’s memoir, *Jim Crow and Me: Stories from My Life as a Civil Rights Lawyer*, was published.

On September 11, 2015, Solomon Seay, Jr. died in his birthplace and battlefield town of Montgomery, Alabama at the age of eighty-three.



## MYRA CONSETTA SELBY

... was born on July 1, 1955 in Bay City but raised in Saginaw, Michigan. After completing high school in Bay City, she received her B.A. degree from Kalamazoo College in Kalamazoo, Michigan, graduating with honors in 1977. She obtained her

J.D. degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor in 1980.

To begin her legal career, Selby moved to Washington, D.C. where she began her private law practice by joining the law firm of Seyfarth Shaw. After three years in Washington, she relocated to Indianapolis, Indiana accepting a position with the law firm of Ice Miller Donadio & Ryan. She later became a Partner, becoming the first African American Partner at an Indiana law firm. There, she focused her attention to health law.

In 1993, then Governor Evan Bayh appointed Selby as the Director of Indiana’s Health Care Policy. In 1995, Selby was appointed to the Indiana Supreme Court as a Justice, replacing retiring Justice Richard M. Givan. She became the first woman and the first African American to serve on the illustrious Court. Another first attributed to Selby is construction of the first women’s bathroom in the Supreme Court’s judicial facilities. While sitting on the Supreme Court, one of Selby’s determined goals was the improvement of health care related matters as it came to the protection of the rights of patients. She fought to ease needed access to the courts by patients and complainants against the rigid procedural rules that were in effect in the health care industry.

While on the Supreme Court, Selby authored more than 100 majority opinions. In 1999, the Court appointed her to Chair its’ Commission on Race and Gender Fairness. The commission was charged with ensuring fairness and diversity in Indiana’s legal system.

After serving on the Supreme Court, Selby returned to her private practice partnership with Ice Miller Donadio & Ryan. In addition to her duties at the law firm, she served as the Chair of the Indiana Supreme Court Commission on Race and Gender Fairness. The Commission’s task was to investigate methods to improve the fairness for anyone and everyone that became involved in Indiana’s legal system.

Having spent most of her career litigating, Selby is most comfortable in a courtroom. Having litigated both state and federal cases at both the trial and appellate levels, and having served on the highest court in the state of Indiana, Selby’s expertise and knowledge of the law is unquestionable. Her knowledge of the laws surrounding health care is second only to her-

self. From contract disputes to medical malpractice to statutory compliance, Selby’s expertise places her at the top of her profession and the many that call upon her for her assistance validates her stature in the field of health care law.

Selby has grown her practice to include Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR), the file of mediation and arbitration as an alternative solution to resolving conflicts arising between two arguing parties. She focuses her attention to commercial disputes and her familiar base of health care cases.

In addition to her many legal health care cases, Selby also served as an Adjunct Professor at Indiana University’s Robert H. McKinney School of Law. There she taught courses on taught food and drug law. Her class on health care reimbursements has become an invaluable asset to those that have studied under her tutelage.

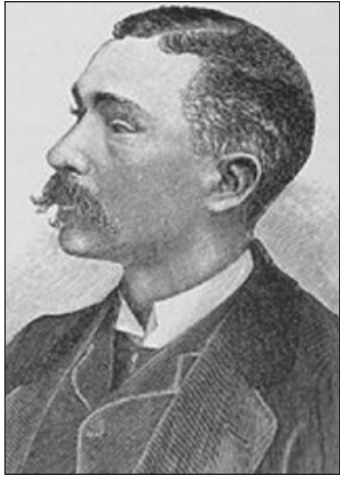
In serving her local community, Selby is active as a volunteer lawyer with her focus on children’s issues and those of the poor. She is a pro bono lawyer for the Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic. For the Clinic, she serves as Counsel in domestic violence cases. For her local church, she gives free advice to the church and needing members.

Selby has served Jack and Jill of America, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to African American children and their futures through volunteer leadership, as its’ Parliamentarian. In addition, she volunteers as a Moot Court Jurist for several law school’s Moot Court competitions

On January 12, 2016, then President Barack Obama nominated Selby to the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit. Unfortunately, her nomination expired on January 3, 2017. If she had been confirmed, she would have made another first, that as the first African American woman to serve on the Seventh Circuit. A firm believer in “first”, that distinction will await a future African American Jurist. Still a litigator and partner at the law firm Ice Miller LLP, Myra Consetta Selby continues to represent her clients in the fields of appeals, complex litigations, compliance counseling, corporate internal investigations, risk management, strategic assessments, and other legal matters.

Judge Selby has been active in her community through her legal and non-legal endeavors. She has been an advocate for children and for the poor. She has volunteered of her time to the Neighborhood Christian Legal Clinic (NCLC) and has served as legal counsel in domestic violence cases that the NCLC has undertaken. She has given pro bono legal services to her church and many of the church members needing assistance. Judge Selby has served as the Parliamentarian for Jack and Jill of America, Inc., an organization that nurtures future African-American leaders through volunteering and focusing on children and the youth through leadership development, philanthropic giving and civic responsibilities. Judge Selby also volunteers as a moot court jurist for various law school moot court competitions in Indiana and across the country.





## JOSIAH T. SETTLE

... was better known as “Joe” and was born on a slave plantation near Rockingham, North Carolina located in the Cumberland Mountains of East Tennessee and western North Carolina. His mother, Nancy Ann Settle, was slave mistress owned by slave trader, Josiah Settle.

She befittingly named her son after her slave master, Josiah, after Joe’s birth on September 30, 1850.

A wealthy slave owner having made his wealth as a slave trader, the elder Josiah moved his family and his slaves from their plantation in Rockingham, North Carolina to Tishomingo County, Mississippi. He and Nancy would go on to have ten children together. Josiah Sr. was a “devoted” slave master to Nancy and their children. So much so, that in 1856 he gave Nancy and their children their freedom from slavery. Unfortunately, Mississippi had had a strict law that did not permit free slaves to live in the state. Knowing this, Josiah, Sr., moved the family north to Hamilton, Ohio although the maintained his slave plantation in Mississippi living there part-time while Nancy and the children remained in the free state of Ohio.

In 1858, Josiah, Sr. married Nancy. After the Civil War began in 1861, in support of the Union, he sold his land and slaves in Mississippi and moved permanently to Ohio. He would die in the spring of 1869. The younger Josiah was nineteen years old.

In Hamilton, the young Settle attended public elementary and high schools. Although Ohio was a free slave state, Settle did face some discrimination. He was moved to a preparatory school in Oberlin, Ohio and eventually entered Oberlin College to earn his collegiate degree. A gifted athlete, he played baseball with an integrated baseball club, the Resolutes, which had both white and black players.

The following year, Settle moved to Washington, D.C. to enroll into newly established Howard University for his sophomore year. He would graduate in 1872 in the schools’ first graduating class. While at Howard, he clerked in the Freedmen’s Bureau in the Education Department. In his senior year, he served as a reading clerk for Alexander Shepherd of the Washington, D.C. House of Delegates. He also began teaching at the university as well.

After graduating from Howard, Settle was admitted to the D.C. Bar and immediately joined the Howard University Law Department. Active in D.C. politics, for the next three years, he took on several positions including as a Board of Public Works clerk, a Board of Audits clerk, and Washington, D.C. County

School district clerk. Growing tired of D.C. politics, in 1875, he moved to Mississippi and was admitted to the state bar association there.

Settle chose northwest Mississippi’s Panola County and the city of Sardis as his base. He opened a law practice with D.T. J. Matthews and married Theresa T. Vogelsang from Annapolis, Maryland. Later that year, although he lost, he ran for the position of District Attorney of the Twelfth Judicial District of Mississippi. He was, however, selected as a delegate to the Republican National Conventions in the 1876 and 1880.

In 1882, Settle contemplated making a run for the U.S. Congress, but instead endorsed an independent Democrat, James Ronald Chalmers for the seat. Once Chalmers took his controversial seat, Settle was awarded the Chairmanship of the Republican Congressional Executive Committee. He campaigned vigorously for Republican causes and a year later, he ran as an independent for a seat in the Mississippi House of Representatives against a ticket comprised of Republicans and independent Democrats, and was overwhelmingly elected to the state legislature. He served one two-year term before moving to Memphis, Tennessee to focus on his law practice.

In Memphis, Settle accepted an appointment as Assistant Attorney-General of Shelby County, Tennessee. He held that position for two years, leaving after then Governor Peter Turner’s term ended. He returned to private practice in the law firm of Humbert, Griggs, Settle, and Matthews.

During the following years, Settles would befriend famed journalist, editor, feminist and Civil Rights Activist, Ida B. Wells even allowing her to board with he and his wife for a period of time. After a disagreement over money, Wells moved out and wrote scathing newspaper editorials in her newspaper, “Free Speech” calling Settle a “sycophant” because of his representation of a local minister and his church against militant and race incendiary charges. The minister was eventually convicted and fled the state rather than serve an eighty-day prison sentence.

In private practice, Settle took on a case challenging Mississippi’s segregated streetcars. Although the court ruled in favor of the state, the case was able to showcase the prejudices faced by black lawyers arguing cases before their white counterparts. He was able to highlight the injustices and discrimination from judges, other lawyers and the purposefully selected white juries.

Settle, along with Robert Reed Church, M.L. Clay, and T.H. Hayes, founded the Solvent Bank and Trust Company in Memphis in 1906. A devout Episcopalian Christian, he Settle attended Emmanuel Episcopal Church. A member of the an elite circle of African American businessmen, he became the first President of the National Negro Business League, organized by Booker T. Washington, where he served for eight years.

Settle married Fannie McCullough on March 20, 1890. He had two sons, Josiah T. and Temoy. He was a member of the member of the Memphis chapter of Sigma Pi Phi. After a lengthy illness, Josiah T. Settle died on August 21, 1915 in Memphis.



## TERRYCINA “TERRI” ANDREA SEWELL

...was born on January 1, 1965 to Nancy Gardner Sewell and Adrew A. Sewell in Selma, Alabama. Her father was an athletic coach and her mother was a City Councilwoman, the first black woman elected and after retirement, she became a librarian. The family home became a rest haven for civil

rights marchers during the 1965 She grew up surrounded by local and national activist as they often visited the family home during the 1965 Selma to Montgomery marches that protested voting rights.

Attending Selma High School, Sewell became the first African American Valedictorian of her high school. Her summer days were spent with her maternal grandparents who taught her the value of hard work and love. Her Baptist upbringing gave her faith.

Graduating from high school with honors, Sewell won numerous scholarships, including one from U.S. News and World Report. While in college, she interned on Capitol Hill for 7th Congressional District Congressman Richard Shelby, as well as for Alabama Senator Howell Heflin. On campus, as a Democratic leader, she was class Vice-President, Class Representative to the Student Union, and led the university’s Admission Office in their attempts to set up a Minority Student Recruitment Office.

Completing her studies at Princeton, Sewell was awarded with numerous accolades. She was selected by NBC’s Today Show as one of the “Top Collegian Women.” Glamour Magazine selected her as one of the “Top Ten College Women in America. The was the recipient of the Afro-American Studies Thesis Prize for her senior thesis, *Black Women in Politics: Our Time Has Come*, which featured an interview with Shirley Chisholm, the first black U.S. Congresswoman.

Accepted by Oxford University located in Oxford, England, United Kingdom, Sewell received her Master’s degree with first-class Honours. She published her Masters’ thesis on the election of the first black members of British Parliament entitled, *Black Tribunes: Race and Representation in British Politics*, in 1993, all at the age of twenty-five.

With the help of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, Sewell received a scholarship to attend Harvard Law School, graduating in 1992. She was the Editor of the Civil Rights Civil Liberties Law Review while there. She published in the Harvard Black Letter Journal, (vol. 8, Spring 1991), an article titled “*Selma, Lord, Selma*,” showcasing legal struggles in Selma.

Sewell’s first job after graduation was as a judicial law clerk in Birmingham, Alabama for the first black federal judge appointed in Alabama, Chief Judge U. W. Clemon, United States District Court (AL-ND). In 1994, she joined Davis Polk & Wardwell, a New York Wall Street law firm. On Wall Street, she gained great experience in the areas of finance and capital markets.

Not forgetting her humble childhood, she provided legal services, for free, to the homeless. She also mentored through the pro-

gram, *Dreams into Action*, girls of color in NYC high schools. She served on the Alumni Advisory Board of Sponsors of Educational Opportunity (SEO), a non-profit organization providing education and leadership training. After the tragic events of September 11, 2001, she served as the Co-Chair of the Community Assistance Fund, which provided \$300,000,000 of aid to communities of color affected by the Trade Center bombings.

In 2004, Sewell joined Maynard, Cooper, & Gale, P.C. And became the first black female partner in the Birmingham law firm. As one of the only black public finance lawyers in the state, she helped raise money for public projects for some of the state’s most underserved communities. She also represented many of the historically black colleges and higher education institutions in Alabama. She then turned her attention to running for public office.

Defeating her Republican opponent, earning 72.4 percent of the vote, Sewell became the first black woman ever elected to Congress from Alabama. As a member of the Congressional Black Caucus has voted along party lines focusing on job creation. She has been a supporter of President Obama’s agenda for tax reforms.

She supported the Obama’s foreign policy initiatives on Afghanistan by traveling there to meet with service members and local officials to discuss women’s issues, specifically security. She has served as Co-Chair of the Women’s Fund “*Voices Against Violence*”, a domestic violence campaign which promotes women helping women. In four months, the campaign raised over \$70,000 in to fight domestic violence in Birmingham. The Fund also provided money to establish the first Domestic Violence Court in the Birmingham Municipal Court. In 2010, She was a leading voice to have the Teach for America, a nonprofit organization whose mission is to “*enlist, develop, and mobilize as many as possible of our nation’s most promising future leaders to grow and strengthen the movement for educational equity and excellence*”, chose Alabama’s Black Belt region for a new site.

Having served on many Boards, Sewell’s dedication to service is unmatched in her resolve. She has sat on the Boards of St. Vincent’s Foundation; the Community Advisory Board for the UAB Minority Health and Research Center; Girl Scouts of Cahaba Council; the Governing Board of the Alabama Council on Economic Education; and the Alabama Chapter of the National Multiple Sclerosis Society. She is also a member of the Corporate Partners Council for Birmingham Art Museum.

Some of her awards and honors include being recognized in the Alabama Super Lawyers Magazine, being honored as a Minority Business “*Rising Star*”, and being selected by the Birmingham Business Journal as one of the “*Top Birmingham Women*”. She became a member of the class of Leadership Birmingham, a member of the YWCA’s Women Leadership MOMENTUM, and a member of Leadership Alabama. In 2015, she was named by Alabama Today as a “Woman of Influence”.

Sewell, an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha sorority, is also active with The Links, Incorporated, one of the countries oldest and largest women’s volunteer service organizations. She is involved with her church family, the Brown Chapel AME Church in Selma and the Sixth Avenue Baptist Church in Birmingham. The Congressional Black Caucus selected here to participate on the panel, “*From Lincoln to Obama*,” for their Annual Legislative Forum’s discussion on Southern politics.





## MARY ANN SHADD CARY

...was born in on October 9, 1823. She became an American-Canadian anti-slavery activist, journalist, publisher, teacher and lawyer. She was the first black woman publisher in North

America and the first woman publisher in Canada. An abolitionist, Shadd Cary became the first female African American newspaper Editor in the United States editing the *Provincial Freeman* in 1853.

Shadd was born in Wilmington, Delaware with twelve other siblings. The eldest of Abraham Doras Shadd and Harriet Burton Parnell, Mary Ann witnessed first hand the struggle for civil rights by watching her father, Abraham, in his activities. The Shadd family had for generations been involved in civil rights, and her father continued that legacy by being an active conductor on the Underground Railroad, being active member of the American Anti-Slavery Society, and, in 1833, being named President of the National Convention for the Improvement of Free People of Colour.

After laws were passed making it illegal to educate African American children in the state of Delaware, Mary Ann's family moved to Pennsylvania, where she attended a Quaker school. She would later return to West Chester and establish a school for black children. She taught in Norristown, Pennsylvania, and New York City, as well.

After the passage of the Fugitive Slave Act of 1850, A.D. Shadd moved his family to North Buxton, Ontario, Canada. He ran and was elected as Counselor of Raleigh Township, Ontario, becoming the first black man to be elected to political office in Canada.

The Fugitive Slave Law of 1850 in the United States was calling for the return of free northern blacks and escaped slaves back into bondage. Knowing this, Shadd and her brother Isaac decided to move to Windsor, Ontario, Canada, located across the U.S. border from Detroit, Michigan. There, with the help of the American Missionary Association, she founded a racially integrated school. She also ran an anti-slavery newspaper. "*The Provincial Freeman*", which made her the first female editor in North America.

An advocate for full racial integration through education and self-reliance, Mary Ann traveled throughout Canada and the United States promoting emigration to Canada for Freeman. In 1855, she attempted to participate in the Philadelphia Colored Convention, but the assembly was hesitant to even let her sit as a delegate, not to mention speaking as her stance on emigration made her a controversial figure. She was allowed to address the Convention by a slim 15 votes. She spoke advocating for emigration and was very well received. So much so, that the delegates voted to give her an extra ten more minutes to speak. Unfortunately, her speech was not mentioned in the Convention minute. Many believed this deletion was because she was a woman.

She married Thomas F. Cary, a Toronto barber, in 1856, who was also involved with the Provincial Freeman. They had one daughter, Sarah, and a son named Linton. Shadd Cary's husband died in 1860 spurring her and her children to return to the United States. Back in the states, the Civil War had begun. At the behest of the abolitionist Martin Delany, Shadd served as a recruiting officer to enlist black volunteers for the Union Army in the state of Indiana.

After the Civil War, she taught in black schools in Wilmington, before moving to Washington, D.C.. She continued teaching in public schools while she attended Howard University School of Law. At the age of 60, in 1883, she graduated as a lawyer, becoming only the second black woman in the United States to earn a law degree.

Although Shadd Cary began to practice law, she continued to write, writing for newspapers *National Era* and *The People's Advocate*. In 1880, she organized the Colored Women's Progressive Franchise. She joined the National Woman Suffrage Association, working alongside Susan B. Anthony and Elizabeth Cady Stanton on women's suffrage issues. She even testified before the Judiciary Committee of the House of Representatives.

She died in Washington, D.C., on June 5, 1893. She was interred at Columbian Harmony Cemetery. Her former residence in Washington, D.C., still stands today. Located in the U Street Corridor of D.C., it was declared a National Historic Landmark in 1976.

In 1987, Shadd Cary was designated a Women's History Month Honoree by the National Women's History Project. In Canada, she was designated a Person of National Historic Significance.



## ADAM SHAKOOR

...was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan to Esther Caddell and Harvey Caddell. His mother was one of the first African American teachers hired at Detroit's Durfee Junior High School and his father was a union leader. Shakoor grew up with in an educated family knowing hard work was necessary. He grew up in the Sojourner

Truth public housing complex located on Detroit's northeast side and was well aware of the civil rights issues occurring in Detroit and around the nation.

After completing high school, Shakoor enrolled into Wayne State University in Detroit and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1971. He continued his studies at Wayne State and earned a Master of Education degree in 1974. While at Wayne State, Shakoor served as the Features Editor of the independent WSU student newspaper, "The South End". He wrote an editorial in 1969 supporting mayoral candidate Coleman Young in his attempt to become the first African-American mayor of Detroit.

In 1973, Young decided to run for Mayor of Detroit. He asked Shakoor to join his campaign team as the Campaign Office Manager. He graciously turned Young down choosing instead to continue with his pursuit of a law degree. Shakoor then entered law school at Wayne State University's Law School to begin his law studies. While studying at Wayne's Law School, in his second year, Shakoor was elected as the President of the Black Legal Alliance, known today as the Black Law Student Association.

To begin his legal career, Shakoor worked as an Associate Attorney with the law firm of Pitts Mann & Patrick PC. He remained with the firm for three years. He then became a practicing partner with the firm of Ashford Cannon Edison Lumumba & Shakoor. Having worked with the group of lawyers who had tutelage from the legendary Myzell Sowell, head of the Detroit Public Defender's Office, forming a law firm together was destined. The law firm would become known for the cases they litigated surrounding challenging racial injustice.

Having become a Muslim in college, Shakoor took on several cases representing members of his faith. He served as the legal counsel to Derrick Ali and Samuel Rahman, two prison inmates who challenged the correctional system in Jackson, Mississippi that prohibited the two from practicing their religion. Shakoor argued for the inmates to display their religion and practice it in a way they deemed fit and was successful in his arguments. The penal system would change their rules and even went so far as to hire Islamic Chaplains. The prisons began to accommodate the eating habits and dietary concerns of their Muslim inmates and observed the worship practices of Muslims during holy month of Ramadan.

Shakoor accepted a job as a Professor of Law for the Wayne County Community College District. He would be affiliated with the college for the next forty-four years. His teaching specialties are Business Law, Criminal Justice Law, and African American Studies. In addition to his teaching, Shakoor serves as a full-time attorney with his law firm, Adam Shakoor & Associates PC.. Shakoor

received his law degree from Wayne State University Law School, graduating in 1976.

In 1981, Shakoor was appointed by then Governor William Milliken as a Judge of the Common Pleas Court for Wayne County, Michigan. Shakoor became the first Muslim Judge to serve on the Common Pleas Court. That year, the Michigan State Legislature combined the Common Pleas Court with the Traffic and Ordinance Division of the Detroit Recorder's Court to create the 36th District Court in Detroit. Another Muslim Judge would later join Shakoor on the Court when the state Legislature added U.S. District Court Judge Marianne Battani of the Eastern District of Michigan to the Common Pleas Court in 1981.

Shakoor would go on to become the Chief Judge of the Court where he oversaw the administrative and judicial operations of the Court. He served thirty-one Judges, six Magistrates and over five hundred Court employees in the daily responsibilities. Shakoor oversaw the largest district court in the country that was housed under one roof. The Court was also busiest court in the state.

As Chief Judge, Shakoor initiated new and innovative policies and processes aimed at making the experience a better experience of those that had to come before the Court. He established a drug docket, which focused on the city's drug problems, and created an environmental court, which cleared up a backlog of cases that dated back for more than ten years. Shakoor also established Saturday court sessions and was able to acquire funding from state legislators that fully computerized the Court for the first time.

In 1986, Shakoor is credited with taking decisive action that may have save the life of many visitors and staff to the courthouse. The Court had been moved into a new building which would have serious ventilation issues discovered after the Court had moved in. On one particular day, the building next door to the Court was having an auction sale. There were an abundance of vehicles that crowded the street below the windows of the Court. The second floor ventilation system sucked the vehicle emissions into the buildings ventilation system and carbon monoxide gas spread through out the building.

Not waiting for an official calling to evacuate the building, after Shakoor heard of someone fainting in one of the courtrooms, he immediately called on security to evacuate the courtrooms. There was not an official evacuation plan in the Court so Shakoor oversaw the orderly movement of over two thousand people out of the building. Thankfully, no one died. Unfortunately, eighty people were transported to the hospital suffering from dizziness and vomiting. A few had fallen unconscious. It took ten days before the Court could be reopened and declared safe for occupancy.

In 1989, Shakoor was asked by then Mayor Coleman Young to serve as the Deputy Mayor to help with the problems faced by Detroit's youth. The Mayor wanted him to address the problems of them having no skills, no jobs, and seemingly no hope. Drug use was high and the associated crime was rising as well. Shakoor was able to introduce programs to help the youth, including the Boot Camp After Care Detention Program for young males. The program operated from the combined efforts of the Michigan Department of Corrections, Detroit's Board of Education, and the City of Detroit, created the first boot camp detention program in the nation that involved substance abuse counseling, vocational training and health education.

In 1994, Shakoor returned to private practice joining the laws firm Reynolds Beeby & Magnuson PC. Three years after joining the firm he left to become the Managing Shareholder of Shakoor Grubba & Miller PC. He would later leave that firm to begin his one law firm in 2004.





## BOOKER SHAW

...received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the Southern Illinois University in Carbondale, Illinois. To obtain his Juris Doctorate degree, he attended the Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C.. He went on to further his education by taking legal courses at the American Academy of Judicial Education, the National Judicial College, and the University of Missouri's Center for Dispute Resolution.

After receiving his law degree and passing the state bar, Shaw accepted a job with the United States Department of Justice. After spending a year at the Justice Department, he took a job with the Federal Trade Commission for one year before accepting a position with the St. Louis Circuit Attorney's Office. He would remain in that position for six years.

In 1983, Shaw was appointed as an Associate Circuit Judge in the 22nd Circuit. He would sit on the bench for eight years. He was then elevated to become a Circuit Judge in the 22nd Circuit Court. He sat on the 22nd Circuit Court bench for seven years.

In 2002, Judge Shaw was named to sit on the bench of the Missouri Court of Appeals, Eastern District. He sat on the bench of the Court for seven years. In 2006, he was named as the Chief Judge of the Court and served in that capacity for one year. While serving on the appellate bench, Judge Shaw presided over more than one thousand cases and made opinions in over one hundred and forty cases. He addressed cases involving medical negligence, contracts, personal injury and sovereign immunity in commercial transactions. He also served as a Special Visiting Judge of the Missouri Supreme Court.

After retiring from the bench, Judge Shaw entered private practice joining the law firm of Thompson Coburn LLP in St. Louis, Missouri where he remains today. At the firm, Shaw uses his legal expertise at the trial and appellate level litigating a wide range of issues for the firm's Business Litigation Group. His primary industry focus centers on the railroad industry, the pharmaceutical industry, and the tobacco industry. Judge Shaw also gives legal attention to business litigations, class action suits, product liability cases, and consumer product litigation. His effective and

persuasive strategies have been instrumental in securing favorable decisions for the firm's clients.

Judge Shaw is admitted to practice in the Missouri USDC, Eastern District; the Missouri USDC, Western District; and the United States Court of Appeals, 8th Circuit, which covers the states of Arkansas, Iowa, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, and Minnesota. He is a member of the Theodore McMillian American Inn of Court, the Alternative Dispute Resolution Committee of the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Missouri, and the American Bar Association. Judge Shaw is a member of the Missouri Bar Association, the Mound City Bar Association, and the National Bar Association's Judicial Council. In addition, he was a member of the Lawyers Association of St. Louis.

Judge Shaw was given many awards and honors during his legal career. The Missouri Lawyers Weekly presented him with its' Mentor Award, the St. Louis Business Journal awarded him its' Diverse Business Leader Award, and the Mound City Bar Association gave him its' Legal Legend Award. In addition, Judge Shaw was the recipient of the National Bar Association's Judicial Conference Award.



## NINA L. SHAW

...was born in Harlem, New York. She spent some time being raised in The Bronx and graduated from William Howard Taft High School. She attended Barnard College in New York City where she received her Bachelor of Arts degree

in 1976. To obtain her law degree, Shaw attended New York City's Columbia Law School and obtained her Juris Doctorate degree in 1979.

Shaw began her legal career working in the Entertainment Department of the law firm of O'Melveny & Myers headquartered in Los Angeles, California. Her focus centered primarily on the television, motion picture, and live entertainment industries. The law firm had many high profile television clients including serving as counsel to Norman Lear and Bud Yorkin who founded their famous television firms. Shaw was able to work on television shows such as "All in the Family", "Good Times", "The Facts of Life", and "The Jefferson's Show". During that time, African American actors were just beginning to achieve stardom on the TV screens and Shaw was able to learn and negotiate fair deals for them in uncharted waters.

In 1981, Shaw left O'Melveny and joined the boutique firm of Dern, Mason, Swerdlow and Floum. It was at the firm that she met her future legal partner, Ernest Del, a white attorney who loved jazz music and had many common interests that Shaw shared. The two would later form the law firm of Del Shaw Moonves Tanaka Finkelstein and Lezcano.

Over the next several years, Shaw would become the legal counsel to many high profile entertainers, musicians, actors, writers, producers and directors. She also built a reputable reputation serving as legal counsel to business entrepreneurs and entertainment executives. She became famous amongst Hollywood entertainers for securing hefty negotiation settlements for their talents and services to the entertainment industry. Among her long list of clients are famed entertainers Jamie Foxx, Nick Cannon, and Lawrence Fishburne.

For Fishburne, Shaw negotiated his high profile role in the Tina Turner movie where he played the role of her husband, Ike Turner. She would later negotiate and secure a \$10 million salary for the sequel to The Matrix, a highly successful movie. Sequel compensation in many cases is more difficult than the original movie negotiations due to the fact that many attorneys do not plan for a sequel and are happy to have gotten a deal for their clients to star in the original movie, which many are happy to get just to be performing in their field. She also served as the

legal counsel for the TV show, "In Living Color", starring the Wayans family.

Shaw believes in pre-negotiating any and all future possibilities for her clients and has become a master at negotiating these deals. She has garnered lucrative assignments for the likes of James Earl Jones and Cedric the Entertainer. Although she does not look at her client race or color when accepting them as a client, she has given much attention to ensuring that African American entertainers receive fair compensation for their talents bringing them closer to what white entertainers are paid.

The entertainment industry is a brutal industry and Shaw works to ensure her clients are well compensated and are safe while performing their performances. Some critics are critical of the high salaries her celebrity clients are receiving, however, Shaw is quick to emphasize that their earning potential in many cases is limited. Stars come and go so it is her responsibility to ensure they earn comparable earnings based on the success of their past engagements and that of the current project she is negotiating on behalf of her clients. She realizes that people get older, may become ill or injured, and in some cases, the viewing public simply wants something new. Her job is to ensure that her clients receive compensation from every possible revenue stream that may come across their field of expertise.

Shaw is known among the Hollywood elite producers, movie houses, and directors, as a tough negotiator but is fair in her dealings. She has declined potential clients who were out "to get" the opposing side or wanted to "kill them" in negotiations. Some of those that she has turned down were looking for an attorney that the other side would ultimately hate after having won a huge victory in negotiating a deal. Shaw instead prefers a method to bring a solution that brings the client a well-deserved pay check but not at the sake of destroying the opposing party during the negotiating process.

Shaw has been honored by many famous celebrities in the entertainment world and by her peers in the legal community as well. The Women in Film organization awarded her its' Crystal Award in recognition for her legal representation among the movers and shakers in the Hollywood scene. The Beverly Hills Bar Association has named her as its' Entertainment Attorney of the Year and The Hollywood Reporter recognized Shaw as a Women in Entertainment Power 100 winner. She has also been honored as a Daily Variety Dealmaker Impact honoree, has been featured in Black Enterprise's "America's Top Black Lawyers", and has been named among Savoy's, "The 100 Most Influential Blacks in America."

Shaw serves as a mentor to the Hollywood Big Sister Women in Entertainment Mentoring Program. She serves as a Board member to the Independent School Alliance for Minority Affairs and as a Board member to the Columbia Law School West Coast Advisory Board. Shaw is married, lives in Los Angeles with her husband, and together, they have two adult daughters.





**T**HEODORE  
MICHAEL  
SHAW

...was born on November 24, 1954 in New York City to Jean Audrey Churchill Shaw and Theodore Shaw. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree with honors in 1976 from Wesleyan University located in Middletown, Connecticut. He obtained his law degree as

a Charles Evans Hughes Fellow in 1979 from the Columbia University School of Law in New York.

After receiving his law degree, Shaw took a job as a trial attorney in the Honors Program of the Civil Rights Division to the United States Department of Justice (DOJ). He worked for the DOJ for three years. He then accepted a position with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. (LDF) as the Director-Counsel and President. He litigated cases surrounding education, employment, voting rights, housing, police policies, and capital punishment and oversaw the LDF's Education Docket.

In 1987, Shaw was charged with establishing the LDF's Western Regional Office in Los Angeles, California and served as its' Western Regional Counsel. After three years in California, he left the LDF and moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan to join the faculty of the University of Michigan Law School. At the law school, he taught constitutional law, civil procedure, and civil rights.

In 1993, Shaw took a leave of absence from Michigan to rejoin the LDF as Associate Director-Counsel. He served as the lead counsel in a coalition that represented African American and Latino students in an affirmative action admissions case, "Gratz v. Bollinger", against the University of Michigan undergraduate school. The case involved white students that had a position that Michigan's minority admission process was discriminating against white students and was unconstitutional. The case was heard before the U.S. Supreme Court that ruled that the point system used by the University was indeed unconstitutional.

In 2004, Shaw became the fifth Director-Counsel and President of LDF with the retirement of then President Elaine Jones. He served in the position for four years. Shaw then left the LDF joining the law firm of Norton Rose Fulbright, which was formerly the law firm of Fulbright & Jaworski, LLP. As legal counsel, Shaw focused on civil litigation. He also represented clients on diversity issues and matters related to civil rights.

In 2008, Shaw accepted a position with the Columbia University Law School in New York City, New York as Professor of Professional Practice. He remained at Columbia for six years. He also served during that time as a Professor of Professional Practice at New York City's Columbia Law School, the City University of New York School of Law and Temple University's

James E. Beasley School of Law. In addition, Shaw served as a member of the faculty of the Practicing Law Institute.

Shaw currently serves as a Julius L. Chambers Distinguished Professor of Law and Director of the Center for Civil Rights at the University of North Carolina School of Law at Chapel Hill. He also teaches Civil Procedure and Advanced Constitutional Law on the Fourteenth Amendment. For his expertise, he has been called upon to testify before the U.S. Congress and state legislatures on several occasions. Shaw has appeared frequently as a guest on many radio and television programs and has written several articles that have been published in numerous newspapers, magazines, and law review publications. He has traveled extensively to foreign countries in Europe, Japan, South Africa, and South America where he spoke on civil and human rights.

Shaw has served on the Board of Directors of the American Constitution Society, Common Sense, and The Equal Rights Trust in London, England. He has served on the Boards of The International Center for Transitional Justice, The New Press, the Poverty and Race Research Action Council, and the Wesleyan University Center for Prison Education. He has also served on the Board of Deacons of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in the City of New York. In addition, Shaw has served on the Legal Advisory Network of the European Roma Rights Council and on the Wesleyan University Board of Trustees.

Shaw has received numerous honors and awards for his dedicated service to the legal profession. He was awarded an Aspen Institute Fellow on Law and Society, a Twenty-first Century Trust Fellow on Global Interdependence in London, England, and a Salzburg Institute Fellow. The National Bar Association's Young Lawyers Division presented Shaw with the A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. Memorial Award and Columbia University presented him with the Lawrence A. Wein Prize for Social Justice. Shaw also received the Baldwin Medal from the Wesleyan University Alumni Association.

Shaw has been given an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from Wesleyan University and a W. Haywood Burns Humanitarian Award from the Harlem Neighborhood Defenders Office. The Office of the Appellate Defender presented him with its' Milton S. Gould Award for Outstanding Advocacy and the Connecticut Fair Housing Council gave him its' Mildred and Richard Loving Award. Shaw has received Shirley Chisholm Award, the National Council of Jewish Women Faith and Humanity Award, the National Bar Association's Judicial Council Civil Liberties Award, 2007 Association of Public and Land Grant Universities Cade Distinguished Service Award, and a Groundwork Impact Award. He has been given an Office of Black Ministry of the Archdiocese of New York Pierre Toussaint Medallion, a Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund Excellence in Legal Service Award, and a National Urban League Center for Urban Leadership Whitney M. Young, Jr. Leadership Award, among others.



**L**EANDER  
JERRY  
SHAW, JR.

...was born on September 6, 1930 in Salem, Virginia to Margaret Shaw and Leander Jerry Shaw, Sr.. His mother was a teacher and his father served as the Dean of the Florida A&M University Graduate School in Tallahassee, Florida. Shaw, Jr. graduated from Lylburn Downing School in Lexington, Virginia where his mother taught before entering West Virginia State University in Institute, West Virginia. Shaw graduated with his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1952.

After completing his undergraduate studies, Shaw enlisted into the United States Army. He served during the Korean War as an artillery officer and was honorably discharged. Returning from the military, Shaw continued his education by enrolling into Washington, D.C.'s from Howard University School of Law where he obtained his law degree in 1957.

After obtaining his law degree, Shaw left Washington moving to Tallahassee, Florida to accept a job at Florida A&M University as an Assistant Law Professor. He passed the Florida State Bar exam in 1960 and began to practice law. For the next several years, he worked to build his law reputation and service what clients he could gather.

In 1969, Shaw took a position as a staff attorney in the office of the Florida State Attorney's Office. In the State's Attorney's Office, he served as head of the Capital Crimes Division and as an adviser to the grand jury. He also served as an Assistant Public Defender.

In 1972, Shaw returned to private practice taking a job with the law firm of Harrison, Finegold and Shaw. He would remain with the firm for the next seven years. In 1974, then Governor Reubin Askew appointed Shaw to the Florida Industrial Relations Commission. He remained with the Commission for five years.

In 1979, Shaw was appointed to sit on the Florida District Courts of Appeal by then Governor Bob Graham. He would sit on the bench for four years. He was then elevated to the Florida Supreme Court by Governor Graham where he served from 1983 until 2003. Judge Shaw served as the Chief Justice of the Court for two years. During that time, he also served as a Judge in Residence

at the Washington and Lee University School of Law in Lexington, Virginia.

Justice Shaw has been given several notable awards and honors during his lengthy legal career. He was awarded Honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from West Virginia State College, from Nova University in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, and Washington and Lee University. Florida International University also awarded Justice Shaw an Honorary degree.

Justice Shaw has served as a member of the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, The Florida Bar Association, the Florida Government Bar Association, and the Tallahassee Bar Association. He has rights to practice in all Florida courts, the United States Southern District Court of Florida, the United States Circuit Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court.

Justice Shaw has served as the Second Vice President of the Conference of Chief Justices, has served as a member of the Board of Directors of the National Center for State Courts and the American Judicature Society, and has Chaired Governor Lawton Chiles' Criminal Justice Task Force. Justice Shaw has served as Vice-Chair of the Florida Supreme Court Racial and Ethnic Bias Study Commission, has served as an advisor to Florida's Sentencing Commission, and has served as Florida's Standard Jury Instructions-Civil. Justice Shaw has also served as a member of the Judicial Fellows Program after having been appointed by the Chief Justice of the United States, and has served as an advisor to the Supreme Court Committees on Fairness, Standard Jury Instructions-Criminal, Rules of Judicial Administration, and Rules of Criminal Procedure, and as a member of Florida State University College of Law Board of Visitors.

Judge Jerry Leander Shaw died on December 14, 2015. He was eighty-five years old.





**JAMES  
EDWARD  
SHEFFIELD**

...was born in Hot Springs, Arkansas. He was one of nine children and after graduating from high school, he enrolled into a local junior college working to pay his tuition. Over the next several years,

Sheffield attended several other college level schools, including the University of Illinois in Urbana, Illinois where he received his undergraduate degree in 1955. To earn his law degree, he attended Washington, D.C.'s Howard University Law School where he graduated in 1963.

While earning his higher learning degrees, Sheffield enlisted in the United States Air Force. He served at Byrd Field in Richmond, Virginia and left the Air Force in 1959. After leaving the military, Sheffield decided to remain in the Richmond area and call it home.

Sheffield took a job as a District Executive with the Frederick Douglass District of the Robert E. Lee Council of the Boy Scouts of America working in the Richmond office. In his role with the Council, Sheffield was responsible for providing the Boy Scout program to the African-American community with the purpose of bringing more African American youth into the organization. While serving the Boy Scouts, Sheffield served as a clerk for the Chief Counsel of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in Washington, D.C. and served as a clerk for Spottswood Robinson, then the Dean of the Howard University Law School.

In 1963, Sheffield accepted a job in Washington, D.C. working for U.S. Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy's Honor Program for the U.S. Department of Justice in the Court of Claims Section. In his role at the office, Sheffield represented the federal government in any litigation brought against the office or any litigation that the office initiated. He served in the Attorney General's Office for several years before being appointed to state of Virginia position.

In 1974, Sheffield was appointed by then Governor Mills E. Godwin Jr. as a Judge on the Richmond, Virginia Circuit Court. He became the first African-American to be appointed to a Virginia court since Reconstruction. He served on the Court for six years.

In 1980, then President Jimmy Carter nominated Judge Sheffield for a federal judgeship in the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia. Judge Sheffield became the first African American to be appointed to the federal Virginia Court. He subsequently served as Chief Judge, supervising seven other judges. During that same time, he served as the President of the Old Dominion Bar Association.

In 1984, Judge Sheffield resigned from the bench and entered private practice. He accepted a partnership in the law firm of Little, Parsley & Cluverius PC in Richmond. After serving two years in the firm, he left to form his own solo practice. He served as an Assistant Professor of Law at the University of Richmond T.C. Williams School of Law and the University of Virginia School of Law. Judge Sheffield, during this time, served as a member of a delegation of experts and jurists invited to help Nigeria transition from military rule to rule of law under a new constitution.

Judge Sheffield was married for fifty-six years to his wife, Patricia Allen Sheffield. Together, they had two daughters, Joi Elisa and Shari Leta, who both became attorneys. Judge Sheffield died on March 28, 2013. He was eighty years old.



**DEMETRIUS  
DE'ANGELO  
SHELTON**

...was born in Bernice, Louisiana. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics from the University of California, Los Angeles and as an Alfred P. Sloan (Ford) Foundation Fellow, he received a certificate in Public Policy/Administration from the University of California, Berkeley's Graduate School of Public Policy.

To obtain his law degree, Shelton attended the University of California, Davis School of Law (King Hall). While in law school, he served as Chapter President and Associate Director for the Western Region of the National Black Law Students' Association. Through the law school's Family Law and Immigration Law clinics, Shelton provided free legal services to needing California citizens.

After passing the California State Bar exam, Shelton began his career as a practicing attorney and eventually became the Deputy City Attorney for the City of Oakland, California. He served in the office for more than a decade. He founded his own law firm, the Shelton Law Offices, which is headquartered in Oakland and currently serves as an Administrative Hearing Officer for the City of Oakland.

In 2003, Shelton was elected to the Board of Governors representing the 3rd District. He was the first African American in the history of the State Bar of California to be elected to the Board. As a member of the Board of Governors, Shelton was instrumental in creating the State Bar's "Pipeline Task Force" and the first ever Judicial Summit on Diversity.

In 2010, Shelton was elected as the 68th President of the National Bar Association (NBA). Prior to assuming the Presidency of the NBA, for more than twelve years, he served on the organization's Board of Governors. As President, Shelton initiated several initiatives including safeguarding the NBA's pursuit of a thorough investigation into the Hurricane Katrina disaster and the associated lack of relief efforts. Shelton took on similar initiatives after the disaster of the Hurricane that destroyed much of Haiti. Shelton was a leading advocate and supporter of the NBA's Haitian Relief Task Force.

As President, he stressed the need to expand opportunities to attract more minorities into the legal field. He worked to dismantle the school-to-prison pipeline that affected minority youth. In that regard, he published, "How the Law Treats You Differently When You Turn 18", which was aimed at educating the youth of America to their rights and responsibilities under the law when reaching adulthood. Through the "Youth Empow-

erment Symposia" conducted nationwide, Shelton strives to involve more youth in the law profession.

Shelton has been called upon by local and national media organizations to provide legal commentary on current topics related legal issues. He served as a panelist at the American Bar Association's "Stand Your Ground Hearings", which was shown on C-Span, the government's national television broadcasting network. In serving on the panel, Shelton provided commentary on the interactions between law enforcement officials and young members of the community. The panel also discussed issues involving allegations of excessive force by police officers.

Shelton has served as the President of the Charles Houston Bar Association of Oakland and as the President of the California Association of Black Lawyers. He served as the Vice President of the California State Bar Association (CABL), which is the largest state bar association in the United States. For the CABL, Shelton served as the Chair of the Committee on the Courts, which promotes judicial diversity for Judges serving at all levels of the bench. He has served as an Administrative Law Judge for the California Department of Social Services and as a Past National General Counsel of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc..

Shelton has served on several of Boards and committees, including the Alameda County Bar Association, the Bar Association of San Francisco, and the Allen E. Broussard Scholarship Foundation. He has also served on the Boards of the San Francisco Neighborhood Legal Assistance Foundation, now the "Bay Area Legal Aid" and the Legal Services for Prisoners with Children. In addition, Shelton has served on the King Hall's Alumni Association Board of Directors.

Shelton has received numerous awards and honors during his professional career, including receiving the "Jefferson Award" from CBS and KPIX News, receiving the "Pioneer Award" from the Oral Lee Brown Foundation, and receiving the Judicial Council of the State Bar of California's Bench-Bar Coalition "Bar Leader of the Year". He has been awarded the Alameda County Bar Association's "Distinguished Service Award", the Charles Houston Bar Association's "Clinton White Advocacy Award", and the "Attorney of the Year" by the CABL. In addition, Shelton was named as one of the top "101+ Men Making a Difference in Our Community", by Black Expo. Ltd. And was recognized as one of the "Thirty Leaders of the Future" in the 50th Anniversary Issue of Ebony magazine.

Shelton has been recognized by many local and national organizations for his dedicated leadership. Then Oakland Mayor Jerry Brown and San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, declared May 6, 2006 as the "Demetrius Shelton Day" in both cities in his honor. Shelton had received the same honor for his dedicated work from the City of Oakland by then Mayor Willie Brown on November 5, 1998. Shelton has been recognized for his work by the National Bar Association and has been presented him with their "Presidential Award" on four different occasions.



## ARTHUR DAVIS SHORES

...was born on September 25, 1904 in Wenonah, Alabama to Pauline and Richard Shores. He was the oldest of nine children and grew up in a middle class family. He attended a segregated high school sponsored by the Tennes-

see Coal, Iron and Railroad Company for the children of the company's African American workers. When he was in the seventh grade, the school discovered that his father worked for a contractor hired by the railroad and was not employed by the railroad itself, which caused Shores to leave the school.

As there was no other school that accepted African American students in Wenonah, to complete his high school requirements, his parents gave a fictitious address to the city of Birmingham and Shores attended and graduated in 1922 from the Industrial High School in Birmingham. He then entered Talladega College in Talladega, Alabama where he received an undergraduate teaching degree. While at Talladega, he became a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

Shore then enrolled into the University of Kansas in Lawrence, Kansas for one year. He completed his law degree studies through the La Salle University's Extension Correspondence School in Chicago, Illinois and was able to complete his law studies quicker than if he had stayed at the University of Kansas. Shores passed the Alabama State Bar exam in 1937 and began to practice law focusing on civil rights cases. He was the only African American licensed attorney in the state of Alabama.

In 1938, Shores married Theodora Warren and together they had two daughters, Helen and Barbara. As he began to build his law practice, in one of his first cases, he successfully sued the Alabama Board of Registrars on behalf of seven schoolteachers who had been denied the right to vote. He then became the General Counsel for the International Association of Railway Employees (IARE). He successfully represented African American labor leader, Will Hall, who had been assaulted for his labor movement activities by a white police officer.

In 1941, Shores represented B.W. Steele, an Executive member of the IARE in a lawsuit, "Steele v. Louisville & N.R. Company, where he argued that an agreement between the railway company and the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen was illegal. He plead in the case that the whites-only railroad union had excluded black workers, which denied them the opportunity to obtain better paying jobs as they were not a part of the union. He along with famed African American attorney, Charles H. Houston, argued the case successfully, in 1944, before the Supreme Court of the United States. With his success with his cases, Shores began to take on more civil rights

cases handed to him by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and worked alongside legendary Thurgood Marshall.

In another one of his historic litigations, Shores represented African American teachers in a suit against Alabama's Jefferson County School Board arguing unequal pay to that received by white teachers. He would argue again before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1955 when he served as lead counsel in the case of "Lucy v. Adams" representing Autherine Lucy in her suit against the University of Alabama who denied her admission to the school based solely on her race. The Supreme Court ruled in her favor, which allowed her to become the first African American to attend the University.

After being admitted to the University, three days later an agree mob of white detractors convened and prevented Lucy from attending her classes. Police were called and she was protected as she entered her classes that day, however, that evening, the University administrators suspended Lucy stating that they could not provide adequate protection for her. Several years later, the federal government became involved and Shores assisted in the 1963 discrimination lawsuit that forced then Alabama Governor George Wallace to admit African American students under federal order.

In 1963, Shores ran a campaign to integrate the Birmingham public schools, which brought violence to him and other Birmingham residents. After several African American parents enrolled their children in white schools, his home was fire bombed twice injuring his wife in one of the bombings. Eleven days later, white supremacist bombed Birmingham's 16th Street Baptist Church killing four young girls. African Americans who protested the bombings and other civil rights injustice peacefully were arrested and Shores represented over 3,000 demonstrators, including Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., arguing that their arrests were unconstitutional.

For his representation of Alabama residents and his fight for civil justice, Shores became known as Alabama's drum major for justice. With his gained respect and popularity, he ran for a seat on the Birmingham City Council. He was successful in his campaign and became the first African American member to become a member of the City Council. He served as a member of the City Council for ten years. While serving on the Council, Shores was instrumental in arguing before the U.S. Supreme Court an education suit that ended desegregation in the Birmingham public schools.

In 1977, for his dedicated work on behalf of civil rights, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People presented Shores with their William Robert Ming Advocacy Award for his financial and personal support of the residents of Birmingham and for his dedicated legal work. In honor of his contributions to the legal profession in Alabama, the University of Alabama awarded Shores with an Honorary Doctorate degree.

Arthur Davis Shores died on December 16, 1996. He was ninety-two years old.



## JACKIE LAMOND SHROPSHIRE

...was a native of Little Rock, Arkansas. His mother was a teacher and his father worked for the railroad. Shropshire attended and graduated from Dunbar High School, the most

popular and revered high school for African Americans in the state of Arkansas, with honors. He then attended Wilberforce College of Education and Industrial Arts in Wilberforce, Ohio where he earned his Bachelor of Science degree in 1948.

Shropshire served in the military and after completing his military duties he used his government G.I. Bill to further his education. He enrolled into the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville as one of the first African American students to be accepted to the University's law school. At the law school, Shropshire and the other African American students could not use the same restroom facilities that were set aside for white students and had a separate classroom as well as a separate study hall. Due to the overcrowding of the white classrooms, several white students had to take classes with the African American students. In the second year of acceptance of African American law students, the Dean of the law school, Dean Robert A. Leflar decided to allow Shropshire to share two classes with other white students formally integrated the law classes at the University.

When Shropshire was first allowed to attend regular classes with other white students, he was assigned to a particular wooden seat surrounded by wooden railing, which separated him from the other students. Other students could sit wherever they chose, but not Shropshire. After the seating arrangement was publicized, on the second day, the railing was removed although the remaining segregation of facilities at the law school remained. Even with the removal of the wooden barrier, Shropshire was still required to sit a one particular seat.

Shropshire and the other African American were not permitted to attend functions set aside for law students, could not become a part of any student affairs, including being a member of the Student Law Association. By his second year at the law school, he and the other African

Americans students were allowed to share open classes but still had separate study halls. That year, the were admitted to the Student Bar Association and Shropshire, a gifted athlete, would later be accepted onto the law school's softball team. He became the first African American graduate from the University of Arkansas Law School, graduating on June 9, 1951 ranked twelfth in his class out of thirty-six students.

After completing his law studies, Shropshire joined the African American law firm of Booker & Booker. After five years of practicing general practice law in Little Rock at Booker & Booker, he moved to Gary, Indiana where he established his own law practice specializing in municipal law. He became involved with the local politics in Gary after one of the African American lawyers that he had befriended, Richard Hatcher, made a run for elected office. Hatcher would go on to become the first African American Mayor elected to the city of Gary in 1968.

Shropshire would continue his law practice in Gary establishing a very reputable reputation and law practice. He took on cases involving racial discrimination, civil rights, and cases related to the local city government. He also continued his involvement in local politics and the local Gary community associations. He died in 1992.





**PAUL  
ALLEN  
SIMMONS**

...was born on August 31, 1921 in Monongahela, Pennsylvania. His mother worked as a schoolteacher and his father served the community as a barber and a building contractor. He attended the Monongahela City Public Schools graduating from high school in

1939. He then went to work for a construction company operated by his father and his uncle.

Two years later, Simmons found a job working for the Pennsylvania Railroad in the Shire Oaks freight car repair shop. He, unfortunately, was involved in a railroad accident and lost his right leg with it being amputated above the knee. He sought a lawyer to help him with his case against the railroad company however no lawyer would take the case. With his mother's urging, Simmons went to the Allegheny County Law Library in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania to study law books to find a precedent in which to sue the company for damages and the loss of his leg. With the help of a librarian, Simmons found enough supporting documents that the train company settled with him. That began his quest to become a lawyer.

Simmons then received a full scholarship to attend college from the Pennsylvania Bureau of Vocational Rehabilitation. He enrolled into the University of Pittsburgh in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania graduating in 1946 with an undergraduate degree in Political Science and Economics with honors. While in undergraduate school, Simmons worked as a railroad porter. In a railroad accident in 1942, he lost a leg. Despite losing a limb, he did not allow the misfortune to hinder his determined goal of making a difference in society and once he was healed, he returned to school to further his education. He then entered Harvard University's Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts earning his law degree in 1949. That same year, he passed the bar exam.

After completing his law studies, Simmons took a job teaching law at the South Carolina State College Law School in Orangeburg, South Carolina. While at South Carolina, he advised one of his students, Abraham Kennedy, on where and how to file a federal challenge to the separate-but-equal doctrine the South used as constitutional law. He encouraged Kennedy to not be intimidated into withdrawing the suit once it was filed and instructed him to file the suit in a poverty stricken district that was unable to financially support a separate-but-equal school. That argument was later adopted by the National Association for the Advancement of

Colored People (NAACP), which was eventually argued by famed attorney and future U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall in the landmark "Brown v. Board of Education" suit of 1954. After three years teaching at the school, he moved north to teach law courses at North Carolina's College of Law, now North Carolina Central University in Durham, North Carolina. He remained at North Carolina for four years.

In 1956, Simmons returned to Monongahela to practice law privately. For the next six years, he served the local community residents with their legal matters eventually joining, as a partner, the law firm of Hormell, Tempest, Simmons, Bigi & Melenzyer. He handled civil and criminal cases involving personal injury, antitrust, commercial and administrative law litigation. He also litigated more than twenty-five murder cases.

In 1973, Simmons achieved the judgeship he sought when he was appointed as a Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Washington County by then Pennsylvania Governor Milton Shapp. In the 1975 general election, Judge Simmons was the bench seat to a full ten-year term. In the election, he received support from members of both the Democratic and Republican parties. Judge Simmons was the first African American to sit on the bench of the Common Pleas Orphan's Court.

In 1978, then President Jimmy Carter appointed Judge Simmons to the federal bench as the first merit selected Judge serving the United States District Court for the Third Circuit in the Western District of Pennsylvania to fill the vacancy of departing Ralph Scalera. He became the first African American federal Judge to serve on the Western Pennsylvania Court and presided over more than fifteen hundred cases during his tenure. Judge Simmons received senior status on June 1, 1990. After twelve years on the bench, Judge Simmons had to step down due to health issues.

In retirement, Judge Simmons served on several commissions and authorities, including serving on the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, serving on the Pennsylvania Minor Judiciary Education Board, and serving on the Washington County Redevelopment Authority. He was a member of the American Bar Association, National Bar Association, Pennsylvania Bar Association, and the Washington County Bar Association. For his service to the bar associations, the Pennsylvania Bar Association Minority Bar Committee presented Judge Simmons with a Lifetime Achievement Award and the National Bar Association inducted him into its' Hall of Fame.

Judge Simmons was married to the love of his life, Gwendolyn Gladden Simmons. Together, they three children, Gwendolyn Dale, Anne, and Paul Jr.. At the time of his death, on October 9, 2014, Judge Simmons was ninety-three years old.



**STUART  
"STU"  
O.  
SIMMS**

...was born on July 17, 1950 in Baltimore, Maryland. He attended the prestigious Gilman School before entering Dartmouth College in Hanover, New Hampshire where he received his undergraduate degree.

For his law degree, he attended Harvard's Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

After completing his law degree requirements and passing the bar exam, Simms began his professional legal career as an Assistant United States Attorney. He worked for the U.S. Attorney's Office for four years before leaving the office. He then entered private practice.

In 1983, Simms was appointed as a Deputy State's Attorney for Baltimore City where he served for four years. He was then elected as the State's Attorney. He served as the State's Attorney for two four-year terms leaving in 1995.

In 1995, Simms was appointed by then Governor Parris Glendening as the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Juvenile Services. He served in that position for two years before being named as the Secretary of the Maryland Department of Public Safety and Correctional Services. As Secretary of the Public Safety, Simms was given authority of the state's largest agency having more than 12,000 employees and a budget of \$900 million. He served as the Secretary for six years.

In 2003, Simms joined the law firm of firm Brown, Goldstein, and Levy in private practice. Three years later, he made an attempt to win the Democratic Party's nomination for the job of Attorney General in the state of Maryland. He was unsuccessful in his attempt. Having served the Baltimore community for over twenty years, Simms is a highly respected prosecutor and trial lawyer. His enormous experience and credibility, particularly in matters involving local and state governments, has been proven invaluable to the state of Maryland.

The American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Substance Abuse nominated Simms to its' committee. The Committee works to educate and inform attorneys on programs that addresses substance abuse issues and other problems associated with illegal drug use. He serves as

one of the five members appointed by the Governor to the Maryland Public School Labor Relations Board. The Board has the responsibility to administer labor relations provisions relating to public elementary and secondary education. It also makes decisions on controversies and disputes between local Boards of education and school system employee organizations.

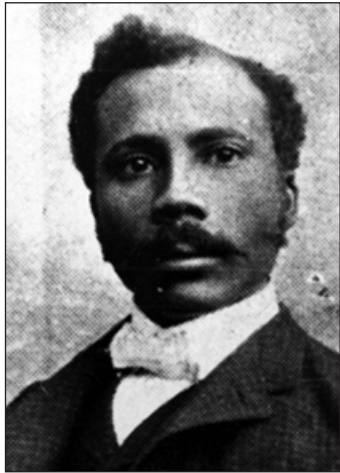
In 2012, Simms the Baltimore Child Abuse Center's presented Simms with its' first Founder's Award, which recognized his efforts in co-founding the organization. His advocacy, leadership, and vision have insured that child victims of sexual abuse in Baltimore are treated with respect, dignity, and kindness. A year later, the American Bar Association (ABA) appointed him as a member of its' Special Committee on Bioethics and the Law. The Committee serves as a part of the ABA's Division for Public Services and is dedicated to applying education and experience of the legal profession to promote the public good.

That same year, Simms was chosen to become a Thurgood Marshall Honoree by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). The local Baltimore chapter of the NAACP also recognized him for his dedicated work to the residents of the city. He also was chosen by The Daily Record to receive its' Leadership in Law Award. Simms has been selected as a Maryland Super Lawyer of which only five percent of Maryland attorneys are chosen. He was also included in The Best Lawyers in America in the fields of General Practice Criminal Defense and Commercial Litigation

In 2015, Simms was chosen as a Maryland Honoree by the Pro Bono Resource Center for his unwavering commitment to Maryland's legal profession. He was recognized for making the legal system more accessible to Maryland residents. For his service to the Boy Scouts of America recognized Simms by awarding him with its' Whitney M. Young, Jr. Service Award for his involvement with inner city, rural, and low-income youth become involved with the organization.

Simms is married to Candace Simms and together they have two adult sons, Paul and Marcus. Both of his sons are graduates of Baltimore's Gilman School, the same school their father attended.





**WILLIAM  
AUGUSTUS  
SINGFIELD**

... was born on January 1, 1875 in Wilkes County, Georgia. He family migrated to Arkansas in 1898. He was trained as a carpenter before becoming involved in the law profession. Arriving in Arkansas, he became

involved in the local politics and built a reputation as a concerned citizen.

In 1899, Singfield married Adeline Morris, who he met in Little Rock. Morris was a graduate of Little Rock High School and attended Spellman University in Atlanta, Georgia. The two had a son, Waldorf Astor, born in 1900. To support the family, Singfield made a living working as a carpenter.

In 1901, Singfield founded the Little Rock Reporter, a weekly African American newspaper in Little Rock, Arkansas. Two years later, he took a job as a bank cashier and later became the Vice President of a bank owned by African American attorney Mifflin Gibbs. Singfield would leave that bank two years later after becoming ill. The bank would close shortly after Singfield's departure.

Singfield amassed a great amount of success both professionally and financially. He began a real estate business and became even more successful. He opened a grocery store and established a commercial printing operation. Singfield also purchased several other properties in nearby Argenta, Arkansas, including owning a local farm.

In 1911, Singfield was admitted to Arkansas' Pulaski County Bar Association. He was also given the privilege to argue cases before the Arkansas State Supreme Court several years later. Before the Supreme Court, Singfield presented cases involving real estate and family law.

Singfield was active in the Republican Party and worked to entice more African Americans to become involved with the Party's politics. In 1920, he and fellow African American attorneys Scipio Jones, J.A. Hibbler, J.R. Booker, and W.L. Purifoy attended the Republican Convention held at a segregated hotel. The group refused to leave the convention and went on to hold their own convention, which addressed issues surrounding the African American community.

With the breakout of World War I, Singfield joined the military and served as the Co-Chair of the Negro Division War Loan Drive. He also served as an Associate Advisor and a War Registrant. After the end of the war in 1918, Singfield became one of the founding members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Little Rock branch. In 1938, Singfield became a member of the Wonder State Bar Association, an African American attorney's group.



**RODNEY  
EARL  
SLATER**

..was born on February 23, 1955 in Tutwiler, Mississippi. He received his undergraduate degree in 1977 from Eastern Michigan University in Ypsilanti, Michigan where he became the Captain of the football team and was the

star of the schools National Champion Forensic Team. To obtain his Juris Doctorate degree, he attended the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville, Arkansas graduating in 1980.

While earning his law degree, Slater served as a Research Assistant to the State Judiciary Committee of the Arkansas Constitutional Convention. After graduating from law school, he became an Assistant Attorney General for the state of Arkansas where he served for three years. He then was appointed in 1983 by then Governor Bill Clinton where he as Clinton's Assistant for four years. As Clinton's assistant, Slater first worked in the economic and community affairs arena before becoming a Special Assistant for Community and Minority Affairs.

In 1987, Slater became a member of the Arkansas State Highway Commission serving for six years in that post. While serving at the Commission, he was elevated to the position of Chairman. During that time, he also served as the Director of Government Affairs for Arkansas State University in Jonesboro, Arkansas. When Clinton won the office of the President of the United States, he appointed Slater as the Director of the Federal Highway Administration. He became the first African American to serve as the Director of the state agency. In 1997, Slater became the Secretary of Transportation in the Clinton administration. He was the second African American to serve in that capacity. As Secretary, Slater was able to achieve Congressional bipartisan support for the projects that he undertook. With that support, he was able to get the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century (TEA-21) passed through Congress, which was a record breaking \$200 billion surface transportation investment. Slater was also able to get the Wendell H. Ford Aviation Investment Reform Act for the 21st Century (AIR-21) legislation passed, which provided another record breaking \$46 billion in funding to provide safety and security to the



aviation system of the country. In addition, he negotiated forty open skies agreements with other foreign countries.

After leaving the federal government, Slater became a part of an investors group led by Stan Kasten, former owner of the Atlanta Braves professional baseball team that successfully bought the new Major League Baseball team and franchise, The Washington Nationals. He then became a partner in the Washington, D.C. based law firm of Squire Patton Boggs, now Patton Boggs LLP. For the firm, Slater served as the head of the firm's transportation practice and worked on projects related to transportation infrastructure.

Slater then became a partner in a risk management firm, James Lee Witt Associates, which was headed by the former Federal Emergency Management Agency Director, James Lee Witt. In 2014, Slater was named as Special Counsel to the Takata Corporation and oversaw the company's dealings with the national recall of automobile airbags that the company manufactured and were malfunctioning. In his role as Special Counsel, he advised the companies Executives on how to address the current challenges the company faced with the federal government. Slater also headed a safety advisory panel for the car manufacturer Toyota and served as Independent Monitor for Fiat Chrysler Automobiles, the Italian automobile manufacturer.

Slater has served on the Board of Directors of the nonprofit organization, Africare, which provides developmental aid to countries in Africa. He was a Board member of The Dance Theater of Harlem and served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the United Way. He also sat on the Board of Delta Air Lines, Verizon Telephone Company, and was appointed as a Executive Director to the Board of WS Atkins.

Slater has served on several civic organizations, including the Arkansas Children's Hospital Community for the Future, the Boy Scouts of America, and the Sickle Cell Anemia Foundation. He has been named by Ebony magazine as one of the "100 Most Influential Black Americans" and has been awarded an Albert Schweitzer Leadership Award. In addition, he has been given an Honorary Doctorate degree from Washington, D.C.'s Howard University. Slater is married to his wife, Cassandra Wilkins, and together they have two children.



## CONSTANCE SLAUGHTER- HARVEY

... was born in Jackson, Mississippi. She was one of six girls born to parents that were both educators. She received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Economics cum laude from Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi. She obtained her law degree from the University of Mississippi School of Law in Oxford, Mississippi in 1970. She was the first African-American to graduate from the law school.

After graduating from law school, Slaughter-Harvey took a job working for the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. She worked as a staff attorney at the Committee for two years where she represented the families of two students who were killed at Jackson State University in Jackson, Mississippi along with other students who were brutalized by Mississippi highway patrolmen. In the case, to help protect African Americans as they traveled down Mississippi roads and highways, Slaughter-Harvey filed a desegregation lawsuit against the state's Highway Patrol Department, which resulted in the hiring of African American highway patrolmen.

Slaughter-Harvey left the Civil Rights Committee and moved to Forest, Mississippi where she established her own private law practice. While operating her own law firm, she became the Executive Director of Southern Legal Rights. She later became the Director of East Mississippi Legal Services.

Slaughter-Harvey left the Civil Rights Committee and moved to Forest, Mississippi where she established her own private law practice. While operating her own law firm, she became the Executive Director of Southern Legal Rights. She later became the Director of East Mississippi Legal Services.

In 1980, Slaughter-Harvey joined then Governor William Winter's staff as the Director of Human Development. Four years later, she became an Assistant Secretary of State for Elections and Public Lands for Mississippi State Secretary Dick Molpus. Together, they lobbied to allow mail-in voter registration, which became law in April of 1991. Slaughter-Harvey also led the fight for Motor Voter Registration as a member of the Motor Voter National Advisory Board. She was the first woman and first African American woman to serve on the Advisory Board.

In 1995, Slaughter-Harvey became the Coordinator of the Mississippi State Democratic Party Coordinating Campaign. As the Coordinator, she coordinated campaigns for each of the Democratic statewide candidates. During that time, she also served as an Adjunct Professor at Tougaloo College.

Slaughter-Harvey was an advocate for bringing assistance to minority and poorer youth and in that regard, she founded the Slaughter Memorial Foundation. She served as the Foundation's President and in that role she supervised an after school tutorial and enhancement program. Much of her free time is spent mentoring at risk children and teaching them important life skills.

Slaughter-Harvey was later appointed as a Judge on the 8th Judicial Circuit District Drug Court becoming the first African-American to serve as Judge in Mississippi. She served as the President of the Magnolia Bar Association and served as the President of the National Association of Election Directors. She was the first woman and first African American woman ever elected as President. Slaughter-Harvey also founded the East Mississippi Legal Services and served as the Vice Chair of the Mississippi Supreme Court Gender Fairness Task Force.

Slaughter-Harvey has been given many awards, including receiving the National Council of Negro Women Outstanding Service Award and two National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Legal Awards. She also was given a Mississippi Women Lawyers' Outstanding Woman Lawyer Award and the Mississippi Bar's Susie Blue Buchanan Award for her dedicated commitment toward continued justice. In Slaughter-Harvey's honor, the University of Mississippi named the University's Black Law Students Association after her and she received the law school's Public Service Award.



## TAHROHON WAYNE "T.W." SHANNON

...was born on February 24, 1978. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Communications from Cameron University located in Lawton, Oklahoma. It was there

that he met his wife, Devon Murray. They would marry in 2001. He holds a Juris Doctorate dedegree from Oklahoma City University Law School.

Shannon first began his legal career working as a field representative for former African American and Oklahoma Republican Congressman J. C. Watts. Leaving Watts' office, he took a similar position in the offices of Oklahoma Republican Congressman Tom Cole. He served Congressman Cole for two years.

Shannon was elected to the Oklahoma House of Representatives in 2006. He was victorious in his run, representing District 62 which encompasses Lawton, Oklahoma and its' surrounding communities. He quickly rose in the leadership ranks among members the state House. In his first term, he became the Deputy Majority Whip. In his second term, he became the Chair of the Transportation Committee. In his third term, Shannon was elected Speaker-Designate of the House. Befittingly so, Shannon became the Speaker of the Oklahoma House of Representatives on January 8, 2013.

As Speaker-Designate of the House, Shannon introduced legislation that created long-term plans to repair and maintain state-owned properties. He was an advocate for monetizing Oklahoma's under utilized state-owned properties. He proposed selling off properties that were not fully operational or near capacity using those funds for other needed state projects. His eight-year plan called for a portion of the state income tax revenues to be diverted to help repair Oklahoma's deteriorating bridges and highways.

Shannon introduced legislation that called for the consolidation of management and staff of all state personnel that oversaw or was involved in managing the state's property. He promoted a fire sale. Under his program and in the first state property sale, the unprofitable state public television station was sold. The sale brought \$130,000 to the state coffers.

The next state sell was land. The state owned a town lot in Buffalo, Oklahoma, a small sleepy town near the western panhandle of the state. That was sold. 5.58 acres were sold off in Marietta, near the Texas border. With each sale of unused or under used property, Shannon brought added to the Oklahoma treasury.

Shannon became controversial when he proposed a measure that required any Oklahoma recipient of the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the federal food stamps program, to volunteer a minimum of 35 hours of work activities or be denied aid from the assistance program. The proposal was scaled back after further assessment of its' cost. Once the cost of providing job training to SNAP recipients in order for them to perform the required work tasks, the 35 hour work requirement was scaled back.

Shannon is an enrolled citizen of the Chickasaw Nation of Oklahoma. As a member of the tribe, he once held the position as the Chief Administrative Officer for Chickasaw Nation Enterprises. He was selected as a member to the National Advisory Board of GOPAC, a Republican based organization, whose mission is to find and support up-and-coming Republican leaders.



**E**VETTE  
L.  
SIMMONS

...received her Bachelor of Arts degree from Florida Southern College in Lakeland, Florida in 1979. She attended the Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law in Macon, Georgia where she received her Juris Doctorate degree in 1982. She obtained her Master of Laws degree from Suffolk University in Boston, Massachusetts in 2001.

Simmons currently serves as a Partner and Chief Diversity Officer for the law firm of Greenspoon Marder that has offices in ten U.S. cities. She focuses her expertise on estate planning, probate, and guardianship administration litigations. For Greenspoon Marder, she serves as the Chair of the Firm's Diversity Committee. While working for the firm, she has been involved in bond transactions involving the City of Port St. Lucie and the Hillsborough County Aviation Authority. Simmons also serves as the President Unity Property Development Corporation, a minority-owned real estate development company.

Simmons has served as a past President of the National Bar Association (NBA) and chaired the NBA's Crump Law Camp Committee, which holds an annual two-week law camp in Washington, D.C. for high school students. She is a member of the American Bar Association (ABA) and has chaired the ABA's Presidential Advisory Council on Diversity in the Profession. She also served on the Board of the ABA's Diversity Center.

Simmons has served as a past President of the Port St. Lucie Bar Association and as a former member of The Florida Bar Board of Governors. She has served on the State of Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission, and the Board of Directors of Enterprise Florida, Inc.. Simmons has served on the Board of Trustees of Florida Southern College and the American Bar Association's Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession. She was the only female attorney appointed by The Florida Bar to the Judicial Qualifications Commission, which has the responsibility of disciplining Florida Judges.

Simmons has received many awards and honors by several respected organizations, associations, and business owners. In her honor, the Florida Southern College named its multicultural center after her, the Evette L. Simmons

Center for Multicultural Awareness. In 2007, the NBA awarded Simmons with its' Gertrude E. Rush Award and she also received the National Black Pre-Law Admissions and Preparation Conference Legacy Builder Award. She has received the PACE Believing in Girls Embrace Growth & Legacy Award, the Soroptimist Women of Distinction Award, the American Association of University Women Port St. Lucie Chapter's Outstanding Community Service Award, and was named by Ebony magazine as one of the most influential African Americans in this country.

The Mercer University School of Law presented Simmons with its' Alumna of the Year Award and the Florida Southern College presented him with an Outstanding Alumni Achievement Citation. The City of Fernandina Beach, Florida also named August 11, 2000 as Evette L. Simmons Day. In addition, the United Way of St. Lucie County presented Simmons with its' Volunteer of the Year Award.

The Florida Bar gave Simmons its' 19th Judicial Circuit Pro Bono Award and she was inducted into the Fernandina Beach High School Hall of Fame. The city of Fernandina Beach, Florida and the city of Shreveport, Louisiana both named a day in her honor. The City of Miami-Dade County, Florida also named a day in her honor.



**C**HARLES  
Z.  
SMITH

...was born on February 23, 1927 in Lakeland, Florida to Eva Love and John R. Smith. His mother was the daughter of an American slave and his father was a Cuban immigrant. Together they had eight children. The family would move from Lakeland

to Matiland, finally landing in Franklin, North Carolina.

As a teenager, Smith had as his mentor William H. Gray, Jr., who was then the President of Florida Normal College (FSU), a black institution of higher learning. Gray not only allowed Smith to live with him but would also help Smith later enroll into college. Gray was later fired from FSU for refusing to ban black students from attending all white colleges. Gray left Florida, moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania and took Smith with him.

After graduating high school, Smith enrolled into Temple University in Philadelphia at the age of eighteen. Soon after enrolling, despite Gray's objections, Smith enlisted into the U.S. Air Force. In the military, he became a Court Reporter leaving the service in 1946.

Returning to Philadelphia, he continued his studies at Temple. He received his B.S. degree in 1952. At the urging of Gray to become a lawyer, Smith entered law school. While visiting his mother who had relocated to Seattle, Washington, Smith met the Associate Dean of the University of Washington School of Law. Showing the Associate Dean his transcripts, impressed, Smith immediately admitted to the school. He was one of only four black students in the class of 120. In his graduating class of 1955, he was the sole African American to complete the course studies.

Unable to find work in the commercial field of law, Smith clerked for Washington Supreme Court Justice Matthew W. Hill. He became the first African American clerk to serve a Washington Supreme Court Justice. He was fortunate to receive a full time job as a Deputy for King County Prosecutor Charles O. Carroll. As was required in order to work for Carroll, Smith registered his political affiliation as a Republican. He worked in the Prosecutor's Office from 1956-1960.

Hearing of Smith, Robert Kennedy, the U.S. Attorney General hired him as a Special Assistant. In that role, Smith assisted in the investigations of fraud in the Central States Teamsters Pension Fund. When Kennedy left office to pursue a run for the U.S. Senate, Smith left the Attorney General's Office with Kennedy to assist in the election campaign.

In 1965, then Governor Daniel J. Evans, appointed Smith to the Seattle Municipal Court. A year later, the Governor appoint-



ed Smith to the King County Superior Court. With the appointment, Smith became the first African American to be appointed to the Municipal Court.

In 1973, Smith accepted a position on the University of Washington's Law School faculty. He became a Professor and the Associate Dean of the Law School. He also was a regular host on local T.V. station KOMO-TV and a radio show. He retired from teaching in 1983 as Professor Emeritus. During that time, Smith served in the Marine Corps Reserve rising to the rank of Lieutenant Colonel.

In 1988, then Governor Booth Gardner appointed Smith to the Washington State Supreme Court. He became the first African American to hold that post. In each of the next three elections, Smith ran unopposed and was re-elected each time. He would serve on the bench for fourteen years.

While sitting on the bench, Smith served as Chair of the American Bar Association's Task Force on Minorities in the Judiciary, Judicial Division. He also served on the National Consortium of Task Forces and Commissions on Racial and Ethnic Bias. He was appointed to the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom in 1999 by then President Bill Clinton.

An avid civil rights advocate, both Smith and his wife, Eleanor Martinez, voiced their displeasure with the state's racial diversity and the lack of women and people of color in the state's legal workforce. Critical of the lack of redress given to Japanese American's, especially in lieu of their internment in the 1960s, Smith provided pro bono legal services to Japanese and other activists seeking reparations. In that cause, Smith became a Board member of the Seattle Chapter of the Japanese American Citizens League. He also gave of his time to addressing the needs and concerns of the Latino communities in matters related to immigration equality.

Smith was also concerned with religious freedoms, not only in Washington, but also around the world. In 1976, Smith became the President of the American Baptist Churches. He served the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom and paid extra attention to the religious persecution occurring in China, Egypt, India, and Pakistan.

Smith retired from the Court in 2002 when he reached the mandatory age of seventy-five. He has been given many honors and awards during his professional career. Local, national, and international scholars, politicians, and government officials have praised his lifetime's work. At the University of Washington, the Student Bar Association named a scholarship in his honor, the Charles Z. Smith Public Service Scholarship. Pioneer Human Services in Spokane, Washington named a low-income housing community in his honor.

Charles Z. Smith died on August 28, 2016 at his home in Seattle, Washington. He was eighty-nine years old.



**D**EMAURICE "DE"  
F. SMITH

...was born on February 3, 1964 in Washington, D.C. He received his Bachelor's degree in Political Science from Cedarville University in Cedarville, Ohio in 1995. At Cedarville, he became the student government

President. His law degree was earned from the University of Virginia School of Law in Charlottesville, Virginia.

In his first job in the legal profession, he joined the Washington, D.C. based law firm of Schwalb Donnenfeld Bray & Silbert. He stayed there for two years. He then took a job in the office of the U.S. Attorney in Washington. He remained there for nine years.

During his legal career, Smith has served as Counsel to many Fortune 500 companies and has presented cases to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. He has worked for the Department of Justice and the U.S. Attorney's office. He has worked on cases surrounding national security and U.S. prison construction. He also served as Counsel to then-Deputy Attorney General Eric Holder in the U.S. Department of Justice.

In his private practice career, he was a partner in the Washington, D.C. law firms of Latham & Watkins and Patton Boggs. With Latham & Watkins, he was a trial lawyer and litigated other cases. With Patton Boggs, he led the firm's government investigations and white-collar crime department as its Chair.

In 2009, Smith was unanimously elected as the Executive Director of the National Football League Players Association (NFLPA). The NFLPA is a union of professional football players in the National Football League established in 1956. The purpose of the association is the protection of players rights and interests. The union was dismantled in 1989, but four years later it was resurrected as the union representing football players.

Although he had no football experience, his association with business experts and access to presidential appointees, gave him an advantage over others seeking the position. Taking the helm of the association, he focused on educating the players about the legal processes and encouraging them to take more control of their careers.

In his role as Executive Director of the NFLPA, he is charged with protecting the players benefits and to advocate for better salaries for the them. Understanding the propen-

sity for player injuries, he worked to improve player safety and increased benefits in the case of a career ending injury. He also focused on the long term health for the players in retirement.

As the lead player representative, Smith, in his first term as Executive Director helped to end the player lockout of 2011. He assisted the NFLPA in their negotiations with team owners to end the lockout, working to ensure the players received better compensation for their talents and labor. With billions of dollars at stake, Smith and his team of lawyers sued the NFL to obtain a greater share of the pool of money being generated by the NFL in the TV contracts, arguing on the players behalf. With his assistance, the NFLPA was able to reach a collective bargaining agreement that benefited the players greatly.

One of the main concerns that Smith wanted to focus on was the relationships between current and former players. He wanted to create better unity between the two in his efforts to represent both groups. He recognized that current and former players competed for the same monies used for benefits. Retired players were suing the NFL's disability plan to obtain more benefits that were being denied.

In his role as protector of the players, he called on the NFL owners to contribute two percent of their profits to create a legacy fund for retired players. He lobbied active players to support the retired players demands as they had laid the foundation for the current players to take advantage of the huge amount of revenue being generated by the game. He fought for the disability fund to have members that had a medical background which would give the fund a better understanding of retired players medical needs. Smith fought for retired players in assessing their head injuries and how they impact on players after their retirement from the NFL.

Smith would go on to be re-elected as the Executive Director of the NFLPA twice more. During his tenure as Executive Director, he has represented many players in their grievances or disciplinary actions take against them by the NFL. He won the suspension case of New England Patriot quarterback Tom Brady's "Deflategate". He successfully reduced the lengthy suspension of other players, including Minnesota Vikings running back Adrian Peterson and Ray Rice in their domestic issues.

Smith has and is working diligently to continued to improve the safety of the players. He works closely with manufacturers of football equipment in an attempt to help them make better equipment for the players. He is most interested in the health and safety of the players he represents, especially the issues surrounding concussions of current and retired players. He visits all thirty-two teams to ensure he knows first hand of any issues involving players in the NFL.



**G**EOGE  
BUNDY SMITH

...was born 1937 in New Orleans, Louisiana to Beatrice Bundy Smith and the Reverend Sidney R. Smith, Sr.. He grew up in Washington, D.C. along with his twin sister, Inez, and his brother, Sidney Jr.. Smith was a gifted student

and received a full scholarship to attend the prestigious Phillips Academy located in Andover, Massachusetts as the only African American in his 1955 class. He received his undergraduate degree from Yale University in New Haven, Connecticut. During his undergraduate studies at Yale, Smith was awarded a Certificate of Political Studies from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques in Paris, France and studied there in 1958.

A year before obtaining his LL.B. degree, Smith was invited to travel to Montgomery, Alabama to be a part of the Freedom Riders, a group of civil rights activists led by Congress of Racial Equality Director James Farmer, that traveled from Washington, D.C. to Montgomery to protest segregated bus travel in the Deep South. The group was arrested and convicted of breaching the peace by the Alabama police. The United States Supreme Court eventually overturned the convictions.

After the freedom rides, Smith returned to Yale where he earned his law degree in 1959. He also earned his LL.B. degree from Yale in 1962. In addition to his law degrees, Smith earned a Master's degree in Political Science and a Ph.D. in Government from New York University. He also obtained a Master's Degree in the Judicial Process from the Graduate Program for Judges at the University of Virginia Law School in Charlottesville, Virginia.

After passing the New York State Bar exam, Smith took a job as a staff attorney to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's Legal Defense and Education Fund. He was assigned to offices in Alabama and Georgia where he litigated a wide range of civil rights cases. He then served as a law secretary to three state judges, Civil Court Judge Jawn Sandifer, U.S. Supreme Court Justice Edward Dudley, and Appellate Court Justice Harold A Stevens. Smith then left the offices of Justice Stevens to become the Administrator of the federally financed Model Cities program for New York City.

In 1975, Smith was appointed by then New York City Mayor Abe Beame to an interim term as a Judge of the Civil

Court of New York City, New York. In the following November election, he was elected to a full term and was assigned to the Family Court and the Criminal Court. Judge Smith served on the Civil Court bench for eleven years.

In 1980, Judge Smith was elected as an Associate Justice to the Supreme Court of New York in Manhattan where he served for six years. In 1987, then Governor Mario Cuomo appointed Judge Smith to a fourteen-year term on the New York Court of Appeals. He was only the third African American to serve on the state's highest Court. When his term expired and despite the urging for his reappointment by former New York Mayor David Dinkins and New York U.S. House of Representative Charles Rangel, then Governor George Pataki did not give the appointment to Judge Smith choosing instead Judge Eugene F. Pigott, Jr. for the seat on the Court.

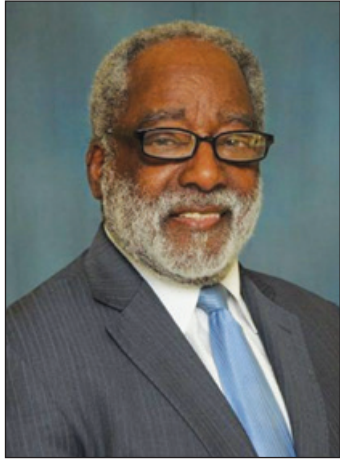
While sitting on the bench, Justice Smith was an attentive Judge that often asked pointed questions of litigants and attorneys always treating them with respect and dignity. After leaving the bench, Justice Smith became an Adjunct Professor of Law at Fordham University located in the Bronx, New York where he taught classes in New York Criminal Procedure. He also taught classes at the New York Law School and Baruch College. Ironically, Justice Smith's twin sister, Inez Smith Reid, was appointed to serve as a Judge on the District of Columbia Court of Appeals..

Judge Smith has served on the Board of Trustees of the Horace Mann School and as the President of the Harlem Lawyers Association. He was one of the founders of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association and served as a Board Member. He was also a member of the Judicial Friends, a New York City legal organization made up of African American Judges. In addition, Justice Smith served on the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association, was a member of the New York County Lawyers Association, and served as a Commissioner of the New York Ethics Commission for the Unified Court System.

Throughout his legal career, Judge Smith has been given countless awards and has been honored by many legal organizations. He was given an Honorary Doctorate of Laws degree from Fordham University and he was the recipient of the William Nelson Cromwell Award by the New York County Lawyers Association. The State Constitutional Commentary of the Albany Law Review submitted several articles honoring Justice Smith and the Judicial Friends presented him with a Lifetime Achievement Award.

Justice Smith was married to Dr. Alene L. Smith (nee Alene Lohman Jackson) who was a professor at Hunter College in New York City. The couple produced two children, George Bundy Smith, Jr. and Beth Beatrice Smith.





## H. T. SMITH

...was born in Miami, Florida. He received his Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics from Florida A&M University in Tallahassee, Florida and his Juris Doctorate Degree from the University of Miami in Miami, Florida. He was able to persuade the

University of Miami School of Law to admit him to its' law school before ever taking the Law School Admission Test. He used as his defense to not having taken the test the argument that it was unfair to punish him due to the fact that he was serving in the jungles of Vietnam and the test was not available or administered in Vietnam. He was admitted to the law school without further questions.

After completing his law studies, Smith was hired by the Miami-Dade County's Public Defender's Office. He became the first African American Assistant County Attorney in the history of the office. Upon leaving the Public Defender's Office, Smith set up his own practice with fellow attorney, Harry Long.

In opening their legal offices, the two partners became the owners of the first African American law firm in South Florida. Smith would serve as a private practicing law attorney for the next thirty-four years. During his lengthy career, Smith would lead the fight for civil rights, fight discrimination where ever he found it, and fought for equal justice under the law for women, immigrants, and South Florida residents in many of their unjust causes. He focused much of his attention on personal injury and criminal defense cases and served as the co-chair of the Miami-Dade County referendum, "Say No To Discrimination", which was a very successful campaign to bring equal rights to South Floridians and to end racial discrimination.

Smith served as legal counsel in the landmark case of "Aubrey Livingston v. State of Florida" where he was able to successfully reverse the death sentence of his client by arguing before and convincing the Florida Supreme Court the lower court had erred when they allowed the jury hearing the capital case to take a recess after the deliberations had begun. In another successful case that Smith litigated, he led the effort to block a constitutional amendment aimed at outlawing affirmative action in public education, public employment, and public contracting in the state of Florida.

Smith served as the chair to the Coalition for a Free South Africa, which called for South Florida governmental entities and universities to divest their financial interests in companies that did business with the governments of South Africa in an effort to abolish the government's practice of Apartheid. When South African activist Nelson Mandela, who would later become the first black President of South Africa, paid a visit to Miami, city officials snubbed him without giving any fanfare to his civil rights causes. Not happy with the city's snub, Smith began a tourism boycott against the city to bring attention to ending Apartheid in South Africa.

In 2003, Smith became the founding Director of the Trial Advocacy Program at Florida International University. As Director and under his leadership, the program gained significant recognition and was named as one of the best programs amongst Florida law schools. In less than ten years from its' inception, the school won several regional and national mock trial competitions. For his achievements creating and administering the program, the student body honored Smith by awarding him a "Pioneer Award" and the University presented him with its' "Top Scholars Award".

Smith also chaired the Florida Constitution Revision Commission's Declaration of Rights Committee. In sitting on the Commission, Smith fought for women and persons born outside of the United States to have equal protection of Florida laws. He advocated for equal rights for all people not matter their color, religion, or sexual orientation.

Smith was the founding President of the Black Lawyers Association of Dade County, now known as the Wilkie D. Ferguson, Jr. Bar Association. He served as the President of the National Bar Association and the President of the Virgil Hawkins Florida Chapter of the National Bar Association. Smith, along with several other lawyers, served on a committee that raised \$4 million to build the NFL Yet Center in the Scott Carver neighborhood of Miami. The Center provides computer training, arts and crafts, and sporting activities to over five hundred underprivileged and underserved children a day.

Smith is listed among the top lawyers in the United States by the Best Lawyers in America and is recognized as a Florida Super Lawyer. The Law and Leading American Attorneys organization has recognized him as a top attorney as well. In addition, the National Law Journal recognized him as one of America's Top 10 trial lawyers of the year. Smith was among the first recipients of the Pa'Lante Award, which celebrates those that advocate for a positive community inclusive of all residents no matter their background. He received the recognition at the first annual Gay8 Festival held in the Little Havana section of Miami.



## JOCK MICHAEL SMITH

...was born on June 10, 1948 in New York City, New York to Betty Lou Nance Bowers and Jacob Smith. He received his undergraduate degree from Tuskegee University in Tuskegee, Alabama graduating with honors in 1970. He law degree was obtained in 1973 from the

University of Notre Dame School of Law in Notre Dame, Indiana. While earning his law degree, Smith founded the University's Black American Law Students' Association (BALSA) chapter and served as the association's President. While in college, he joined the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity.

To begin his legal profession, Smith took a job as the Legal Advisor for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) in Broome County, New York. He also taught school at the New York State University at Binghamton. At the school, he served as a Professor of Afro-American Studies, where he taught a course entitled, "American Law and Racism".

In 1974, Smith took a job as a Professor of Political Science at his alma mater, Tuskegee University. He also served as the Assistant Attorney General for the state of Alabama for three years before opening The Law Offices of Jock M. Smith. In private practice, he represented plaintiffs and defendants in both criminal and civil suits.

In 1987, Smith became a City Municipal Judge in Camp Hill, Alabama. He spent two years sitting on the bench of the Municipal Court. A year later, he became the County Attorney for Macon County, Alabama. He would remain in that capacity for the next fifteen years.

An avid sports enthusiast and sports memorabilia collector, in 1993, Smith founded a non-profit organization, Scoring For Life, Inc., where he used his national sports collection giving inspiration and motivation to teens and young adults helping them to overcome life's challenges by using the real-life stories of national sports legends. While serving the legal profession, Smith had acquired the largest privately owned and documented collection of game-worn sports memorabilia and the largest African American sports collection in the United States. His collection toured the nation and was an inspiration to many young athletes with hopes and dreams of someday becoming a part of the collection by achieving their goals of athletic stardom. The collection made a special appearance at Super Bowl XXXI held at the New Orleans Superdome in 1996 as a guest of the NFL Players Association (NFLPA).

In 1996, Smith became acquainted with nationally acclaimed defense lawyer, Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr. and together they formed Cochran Sports Management, a sports management company. Smith served as the Managing Partner of the firm's Tuskegee, Alabama office. The company represented professional athletes in contract

negotiations. Cochran would later represent famous and infamous athlete, O.J. Simpson, in Simpson national and world known California double homicide murder case. Smith and Cochran would also form the national law firm of Cochran, Cherry, Givens and Smith. The firm would later change its' name to The Cochran Firm, which became one of the country's most recognized civil plaintiff and criminal defense law firms.

During his career, Smith worked on many significant law cases. He won several multi-million dollar verdicts for his clients, including an \$80 million verdict, the largest environmental case in the nation, against Orkin Pest Control in "Jeter v. Orkin". Orkin had defrauded an elderly African American woman whose house had been destroyed by termites due to Orkin's fraud. Smith won a \$700 million settlement against Monsanto, Pharmacia and Solutia Incorporated in the "Tolbert v. Monsanto Company" case and won a landmark \$1.6 billion verdict against Southwestern Life Insurance in "Whittaker v. Southwestern Life Insurance Company" for a mother of three who was a victim of fraud by the insurance company. That verdict, according to the National Law Journal and Lawyers Weekly USA in its' 2004 reporting, was and still remains the largest verdict by an African American lawyer in the history of law in the United States.

Smith also served on the legal teams that represented other notable and national African American icons such as civil rights activists Rosa Parks, Martin Luther King, Jr., and Fred Shuttlesworth. In addition, he represented several Negro League baseball players. His passion for justice and equality, especially for the overlooked and disadvantaged members of our society, brought him many other clients seeking relief from their legal problems.

Smith was a gifted motivational speaker and talented writer. In 2002, he published his autobiography "Climbing Jacob's ladder - A Trial Lawyer's Journey on Behalf of the Least of These". He wrote other articles and was written about in many national newspapers, magazines and legal reviews.

Smith was given far to many honors and awards to be listed here but we must list a few. He was given the keys to the cities of New Orleans, Louisiana; Memphis, Tennessee; and Flint, Michigan. He was recognized for his dedicated and unwavering commitment to equal rights by the Alabama Trial Lawyers Association and received the Inaugural Johnnie L. Cochran, Jr. Journey to Justice Award from the National Bar Association. The Martindale-Hubbell legal publication gave Smith its' highest rating, the AV Rating, and the Law Dragon Legal Magazine of Los Angeles selected him as one of America's Top 500 Trial Litigators.

Smith was selected as a member of Who's Who in Black Lawyers in New York and Superior Lawyers of America rewarded him as a lifetime member. He was honored in the Inaugural Edition of Who's Who in Black Alabama, and The Trial Lawyer magazine chose him as one of the 100 Most Influential Trial Lawyers in America. In addition, Smith was inducted into the Million Dollar Advocates Forum, served on the Board of Trustees of Tuskegee University, and was a member of the National Bar Association.

Jock Michael Smith died on January 8, 2012. He was sixty-three years old.





**L**ENA  
OLIVE  
SMITH

...was born in 1885 in Lawrence, Kansas. She attended public schools in Lawrence and after graduation she remained in Lawrence working odd jobs. In 1906, when she was twenty-one years old,

the family left Lawrence and moved to St. Paul, Minnesota. Once settled into her new surroundings, Smith met and entered into a partnership with a white hairdresser to co-own a hair salon. The salon, located in nearby Minneapolis, just across the upper end of the Mississippi River, eventually went bankrupt and Smith turned her attention to real estate.

After entering the field, Smith learned first hand the extreme racial prejudices that existed in the housing industry. She learned of the unspoken and private agreements homeowners and other realtors had with each other to not sell or rent to African Americans in certain areas of Minneapolis and St. Paul's Twin Cities area. After realizing that those unspoken yet forcible laws needed to be changed, Smith then decided to obtain a law degree.

Smith enrolled into Northwestern College of Law, which later became a part of the William Mitchell College of Law. She completed her law studies in 1921 at the age of thirty-six and promptly opened her own law firm. In opening the firm, she became the first African American woman in the state of Minnesota to practice law. No other African American woman would practice law in the state of Minnesota until 1945, twenty-four years later. By that time, only nine African American women had attended the law school.

In 1925, Smith became a member of the founding team that established the Minneapolis branch of the National Urban League. Several years later, she would become the first woman and African American female President of the Minneapolis branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). She would serve as President for four years as one of the most aggressive yet successful President's and practicing attorney during that time.

After nine years at the helm of the Minneapolis branch of the NAACP, Smith stepped down to become a member of the Executive Board and Chair of the Joint Legal Re-

dress Committee of the Minneapolis and St. Paul chapters of the NAACP. As Chair of that Committee, Smith played a major part giving the Court a proactive posture. In Minnesota, she became the prosecuting attorney and litigator for legal cases brought to the NAACP.

In one such case, in 1931, Smith acted as NAACP legal counsel representing Arthur A. Lee who had purchased a home in a previously all-white neighborhood on the south side of Minneapolis. After being harassed and his family's lives threatened, he sought legal counsel from a white attorney who advised him to sell the house and move his family out of the area. Smith took over the case and began her defense of Lee rights to live in the neighborhood and to live in peace.

As the case unfolded, a massive crowd of white supremacist convened at Lee's home threatening him if he did not sell his house and leave the neighborhood. Smith filed protective orders asking for protection of Lee's family's rights with police protection if necessary. Smith successfully defended Lee's right to live peacefully in his home. That case helped to desegregate south Minneapolis allowing other African Americans that could afford better housing that opportunity.

In some of her other notable cases, Smith took on civil rights issues of equal public access when she brought suit against White Castle, a fast food burger establishment, and the Nicollet Hotel, a higher priced hotel in downtown Minneapolis. She took on the Minneapolis' Pantages Theatre who practiced separate accommodations and at times no accommodations for African Americans. Smith also took on the 1937 case of local off-duty police beating Curtis Jordan, an African American man, while in custody. Originally stopped for drunkenness, the officers charged the man with resisting arrest and apprehended him forcefully. Smith represented the arrestee and had the charges dropped and won a monetary settlement for the client. She even demanded that the offending officers be transferred out of the district they served.

Smith was an active member of the Minnesota State Bar and the local Minneapolis bar. She owned an extensive amount of books housed in her law library and practiced law up until the time of her death. Her work and voice for civil rights was heard by politicians, business leaders, the press, and members of the community in which she served. For her dedicated service, in 1965, Smith was an invited guest to the Johnson-Humphrey Presidential Inauguration in Washington, D.C..

Lena Olive Smith died in 1966. She was eighty-one years old.



**O**TIS  
M.  
SMITH

...was born in Memphis, Tennessee on February 20, 1922. He was raised in a very religious household, although he admits that he himself was not that religious but with his mother Eva's daily Bible

readings, he came to know the Bible well. His father died when Smith was a child.

After completing his high school studies, he enrolled into Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee. He then transferred to Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York to receive his undergraduate degree. He earned his law degree from the Catholic University of America, Washington D.C. in 1950. While completing his law degree, Smith was a member of the school's Law Review, including the first volume the school published.

Prior to joining the military, White worked as a messenger and porter in the Tennessee state capitol. In the military, he served during World War II. He was a member of the famous all-black Tuskegee, Alabama airmen squadron that operated out of Michigan. Serving as a journalist, he was able to document some of the squad's most memorable achievements during the war.

After passing the Michigan Bar, Smith began his legal career as an Assistant Prosecutor in Flint, Michigan. He also took and passed the District of Columbia Bar. It wasn't long before he caught the attention of then Governor G. Mennen Williams who appointed him as Chairman of the Public Service Commission in 1957. He served on the Commission for two years.

In 1959, Smith was appointed as State Auditor General of Michigan. In the 1960 general election, he was elected outright to the post. He served for another year as State Auditor General before he was appointed as a Justice to the Supreme Court of the State of Michigan. With the appointment, Smith became the first African American to be elected to the Michigan Supreme Court. In the upcoming general election, like before, he was elected outright to the position. In the 1966 general election, Smith was not successful in his re-election bid.

In 1967, he accepted a position in the legal division of the General Motors Corporation (GM). The same year, then Governor George Romney named Smith to the Uni-

versity of Michigan Board of Regents. In the upcoming 1971 general election, Smith made the decision not to run for re-election. During his time on the Board of Regents, there was campus unrest and Smith decided that the disharmony was best served without his presence.

While working for GM in their legal department and serving on the Board of Regents, White also served as the Secretary of the Urban League. At the same time, he served as Chairman of the Board of Oakland University in Rochester, Michigan. Although quite busy, White was able to perform the duties and task of each entity well.

In 1974, GM named Smith their Associate General Counsel and Vice President. After three years in the post, GM Chairman Thomas Murphy and the GM Board of Directors promoted to General Counsel. Smith took the top legal position just as GM came under fire being accused of several regulatory violations. The corporate giant had also been accused of tax fraud and faced consumer lawsuits with claims that GM had substituted car engines from one car division to another. Smith's task was to solve the legal issues that GM had come to face. He became one of the most powerful African American corporate America lawyers of the time. He would hold that position for eight years. In 1984, Smith left GM to accept a position with the Detroit, Michigan based law firm of Lewis, White and Clay as their Counsel.

In recognition of his work while serving on the Michigan Supreme Court, a portrait of him was dedicated and hung in the chamber of the Court. A second portrait was commissioned by The Catholic University of America in Washington, D.C., dedicated and hung in their Columbus School of Law building. The Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan named a scholarship in his honor that is given to a Michigan single mother each year. The scholarship pays the mother's tuition to either Wayne State University in Detroit, to a University of Michigan school anywhere in the state, or The Catholic University of America.

Otis M. Smith, after a four-year battle with prostate cancer, died on June 29, 1994 at the age of seventy two years old.





**WILFORD  
HORACE  
SMITH**

...was born on April 1863 in Mississippi. He received his law degree from Boston University School of Law in Boston, Massachusetts graduating in 1883. After receiving his law degree, Smith moved to Greenville, Mis-

issippi to begin his law career. He remained in Greenville for eight years practicing law.

In 1895, Smith left Greenville and moved his law practice to Galveston, Texas. He focused his attention on constitutional law, which at the time in Galveston, there were no African American attorneys having as much expert knowledge of constitutional law as Smith. He was extremely skilled in pleading cases, both civil and criminal, and knew probate law as well.

Smith began to advertise his services in the local Galveston newspapers and soon began to draw clients, both black and white, to his offices. He was able to settle many personal injury claims against corporate clients fearing trial once deliberations and discovery had begun. He represented several black businessmen in the courts before white judges and juries, winning some cases and losing others.

In 1897, Smith represented the Galveston City Times in a libel suit argued before the Texas Criminal Court of Appeals. It is believed that this case was the first case argued before the Court by an African American attorney. Unfortunately, Smith lost that case. Two years later, he litigated another case before the Texas Court of Civil Appeals, which involved an internal property dispute between members of a black church but was victorious for his client in that case.

In 1901, Smith became the personal attorney of Booker T. Washington. He was charged by Washington to be the legal strategist in the challenge to change the voting rights laws of the state of Alabama, which prohibited blacks from voting. Smith was chosen to lead the fight because he had previously practiced laws in Mississippi, which grandfathered him to practice in the neighboring Alabama Supreme Court. Unfortunately, Smith lost both cases for voting rights brought before the Alabama Supreme Court on technical issues.

In 1903, Smith wrote a chapter for a book, "The Negro and the Law", which was edited by Washington where he gave a view of white justice in the law from a black perspective. Although he had previously lost the cases tried before the Mississippi Supreme Court, in the book, he did give praise to several Mississippi Judges, including Chief Justice J.A.P. Campbell of the Mississippi Supreme Court and Chief Justice Christopher C. Garrett of the Court of Civil Appeals of Texas. He gave both Justices gratitude for being able and fair jurists. Smith also gave accolades to the Justices of the United States Supreme Court.

In 1904, Smith won a case before the Texas Court of Appeals. He argued a case that prohibiting blacks from participation on grand juries solely on the basis of their African ancestry was unconstitutional. After that victory, Smith left Galveston moving to moving to Manhattan in New York City, New York to become the legal counsel to Marcus Garvey, the head of the Universal Negro Improvement Association (UNIA).

Smith served as the legal counsel for UNIA for seventeen years before leaving the organization to return to Texas. Not long after his departure, Garvey was charged with mail fraud and indicted by federal authorities. Back in Texas, Smith returned to private practice litigating cases in Beaumont, Galveston, and Houston. In the Houston office, Smith became partners with Joseph G. Wimberly, a graduate of Howard University.

Wilford Horace Smith died on June 9, 1926. He was sixty-three years old.



**WAYMAN  
FLYNN  
SMITH, III**

...was born on June 18, 1940 in St. Louis, Missouri to Edith Maux Smith and Wayman, II, both of whom were college graduates. Smith's father was the first African American certified public accountant in the state of Missouri

and later served as a City Councilman. Smith attended Washington Elementary School, Sumner High School, and graduated in 1957 from Soldan International Studies High School.

After graduating high school, Smith began his collegiate career by enrolling into Washington University in St. Louis. He then transferred to Monmouth College in West Long Branch, New Jersey where he completed his studies in 1962. For his law degree, he attended Washington, D.C.'s Howard University Law School graduating in 1965.

For his first professional legal job, Smith accepted a job with the New York Wall Street firm of Peat, Marwick & Mitchell CPA. Unfortunately, his father fell ill and Smith returned to Missouri to assist with his fathers accounting business, which he knew he would inherit upon his father's death. He moved to Jefferson City, Missouri, only two hours drive from St. Louis, to work on the staff of the Missouri Commission on Human Rights.

After his father died, Smith moved back to St. Louis to care for his father's accounting business. He worked his law practice working with St. Louis attorneys Margaret Bush Wilson and Frankie Freeman. After two years on the Commission, Smith left for private practice.

Smith worked in private practice for two years before being appointed as a City Court Judge. He served as a Judge for five years. He then was elected to serve on the St. Louis City Council where he served from 1975 to 1987. While on the City Council, Smith also served as the President of the Council's Black Caucus.

In 1980, after receiving boycott pressure from Chicago based Operation PUSH and the Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson, Sr. to increase its' minority employment participation, Anheuser-Busch, a large national beer manufacturer, hired Smith to its' legal staff. Smith became the first African American member of Anheuser-Busch's Corporate

Affairs Department. The company faced losing a lucrative federal government due to an employment discrimination suit filed against them. Working along side Augie Busch to improve the company's minority participation, Smith created a \$200 million minority business development program, which brought many African American companies into the procurement process of the company and saved the company's federal contracts.

For his work on the minority participation program, Smith was rewarded by being named Vice President of Corporate Affairs for the Anheuser-Busch Companies and was also named as a member of the Board of Directors of Anheuser Busch, Inc. He was the first African American to reach such attainment. After leaving Anheuser Busch, Smith returned to private practice opening up a law firm, The Smith Partnership, P.C. in St. Louis with his brother Christopher. He also serves as a partner in the law firm of Wilson, Smith & McCullin. Smith would also serve on the Board of Directors of Howard University in Washington.

Smith would later found the Worldwide Financial Services Group (WFSG), which is a factoring business that allows funeral homes to be paid by his company for their services immediately by WFSG, while WFSG awaits payment from the deceased funeral insurance policy. Smith also was an investor in the redevelopment of East St. Louis' riverfront property.

Smith has served on numerous Boards, including the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation; the National Association of Sickle Cell Disease, Inc.; and the National Urban League. He also served on the Boards of the St. Louis Metropolitan YMCA and the St. Louis Symphony. In addition, Smith served as the Chairman of the Board of Regents of Harris Stowe State College, also located in St. Louis.

Smith has been given far to many awards and accolades to be listed here. He has served as a member of the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the Mound City Bar Association, and the Missouri Bar Association. In addition, he was listed in Who's Who in America and Who's Who in Black America.



**JOHN  
CLAY  
SMITH, JR.**

...was born in Omaha, Nebraska on April 15, 1942 to Emily Verna Williams Smith and J. Clay Smith Sr.. His father died in an industrial accident and his mother would later remarry taking on the last name of Martin. After

graduating from high school, Smith enrolled into Creighton University located in his hometown city where he received his undergraduate degree.

While Studyin for his undergraduate degree, Smith was elected as the Governor of Nebraska's "Boys State". He was the first African American to serve as the Governor of the institution. During the 1960 White House Conference on Children & Youth, he was invited to Washington, D.C. to meet with then President Eisenhower where he was acknowledged for his work with children. During that time, he met his first wife, Olivia Blackamore, while studying at Creighton and married her after graduating in 1964. Together, they had three children.

After leaving Creighton, Smith moved to Washington D.C. and enrolled into the Howard University School of Law and completed his studies in 1967. He then took a job working for the District of Columbia Redevelopment Land Agency for a short time before joining the military enlisting into the Judge Advocate General Corp. While serving in the Corps, Smith was able to complete studies to earn his Juris Doctorate degree from the George Washington University Law School in D.C. graduating in 1970. Seven years later, in 1977, Smith obtained his LL.M. degree also from George Washington.

In 1971, Smith left the JAG Corps and began working for the law firm of Arent, Fox, Kintner, and Plotkin. He worked in the firm's anti-trust issues department. While working at the law firm, he also served as an Adjunct Professor at Howard University School of Law. In addition, he gave of his time to several professional and community organizations, including his local church and other local charities involved with civil rights, children's rights and rights associated with other disadvantaged groups.

In 1974, Smith joined the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) as its' Deputy Chief in the ever increasing field of cable television. Two years later, he

advanced to become the Associate General Counsel. During those two years, he also became a member of the Administrative Conference of the United States.

In 1978, then President Carter appointed Smith as a member of the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission (EEOC). Three years later, in 1981, newly elected President Ronald Reagan appointed Smith as the EEOC's Acting Director due to the fact that he was the only Republican member of the EEOC at that time. His Democratic co-workers were departing due to the change of the controlling political party with the election of Republican Reagan.

In fact, with the quick departure of Democrats, Smith was given temporary unilateral authority of the EEOC. With that authority, he was able to function without a quorum. His nomination to take the permanent control of the EEOC was not approved by Congress but did approve another African American, Clarence Thomas, to lead the EEOC. Thomas would later become a sitting U.S. Supreme Court Justice. That same year, Smith left the Commission.

In 1982, after leaving the EEOC, Smith accepted a position as a Visiting Professor at Howard University. He became a full time faculty member in 1983. Three years later, Smith was appointed as the Dean of the school. The University was going through controversial finance issues and he was able to stabilize the schools funding problems during his tenure as Dean.

Smith resigned as Dean from Howard's Law school to become a regular law professor and to focus on his personal writings. He became a Visiting Professor at Georgetown University's Law School in 1995 where he served for one year. He kept his law professor position at Howard University where he taught until his retirement in 2004.

Smith was a prolific writer and speaker and gave many lectures and penned many articles on the subject of law. While serving at both the FCC and the EEOC, he was called upon to represent both agencies in numerous conferences and seminars across the country. He gave speeches and wrote articles on subjects related to communications, civil rights, history, and politics. In 1993, he published his first book, "Emancipation: The Making of the Black Lawyer". The book was an encyclopedia of African American legal pioneers, which won him much praise for his painstaking research on African American lawyers. Smith would go on to write a two more books, "Rebels in Law: Voices of Black Women Lawyers" and "Supreme Justice: Speeches and Writings on the work of Thurgood Marshall".



**DORIS  
A.  
SMITH-RIBNER**

...received her Bachelor of Science degree in Economics from the University of Pittsburgh (Pitt) in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in 1969. She then attended Pitt's School of Law where

she earned her Juris Doctorate degree in 1972. Smith-Ribner would later further her legal education by obtaining a certificate in arbitration and mediation.

After graduating with her law degree and passing the Pennsylvania State Bar exam, Smith-Ribner entered private practice law serving the community with her law partner, Byrd R. Brown. In 1974, she became a Commissioner for the Pennsylvania State Human Commission where she served for six years. She then became a member of the Pennsylvania Supreme Court Disciplinary Board for three years before becoming the Solicitor and County Controller of Allegheny County, Pennsylvania where she remained until 1984.

In 1984, then Pennsylvania Governor and fellow Pitt Law School Alumni, Richard Thornburgh, appointed Smith-Ribner to serve as a Judge on the Allegheny County Court of Common Pleas. She was the first African-American female Judge to serve on the court doing so for two years. Her assignment on the Court was in the Juvenile Division. In the 1987 general election, Judge Smith-Ribner was elected to a full time term, the first African American to be elected to a statewide position.

While serving on the Court of Common Please, Judge Smith-Ribner was asked by then Governor Milton Shapp to serve as a Commissioner on the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. In 1980, then Governor Dick Thornburgh re-nominated Judge Smith-Ribner as a Commissioner on the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission. She accepted the appointment for the second time.

In 1988, Smith-Ribner was appointed as a State Appeals Court Judge in the Pennsylvania Commonwealth Court. She would serve on the Court for the next twenty-one years. Three years after being appointed to the bench, Judge Smith-Ribner was also appointed as a member to the Pennsylvania Judicial Auditing Agency. She

served as the Agency's Chairperson for five years beginning in 1999.

In 2000, Judge Smith-Ribner established a National Judicial Externship-Clerkship Program, which aimed to place current law students and law school graduates into externships and clerkships with federal and state courts throughout the United States. The program operates in conjunction with Just the Beginning - A Pipeline Organization based in Chicago, Illinois. The successful program's first student was from her alma mater, Pitt, and was placed with a 3rd Circuit U.S. Court of Appeals Judge.

In 2014, then President Barack Obama appointed Smith-Ribner to serve on the fifteen-member Presidential Advisory Commission on Educational Excellence for African Americans, by then President Barack Obama. The Commission was established to improve the elementary and high school education of African Americans to ensure they have the abilities to attend a higher learning institution, which will prepare them for productive careers and to lead successful and satisfying lives.

Judge Smith-Ribner has served as a member of the Board of Visitors to the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and as a member of the Pennsylvania Interbranch Commission for Gender, Racial, and Ethnic Fairness. She also served on the Commission's Criminal Justice and Equal Opportunity Committee and its' Diversity Committee. In addition, Judge Smith-Ribner served as a member of the Justice Reinvestment Work Group, is a member of the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the Pennsylvania Bar Association and is a Life Member to the National Council of Negro Women.

Judge Smith-Ribner has been given numerous awards and honors during her illustrious legal career. She has been named a Businesswoman of the Year by the Business & Professional Women's Club, has received a Distinguished Alumni Award from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law, and has been asked to be the Speaker for the University of Pittsburgh School of Law's 2007 Commencement. Judge Smith-Ribner has also been the recipient of the "Thaddeus Stevens Award" by the Public Interest Law Center of Philadelphia and Widener University in Chester, Pennsylvania awarded her with an honorary Doctors of Laws degree.

Judge Smith-Ribner is married to former Philadelphia, Pennsylvania Common Pleas Judge Paul Ribner. Together, they have one daughter.





## DAMARIO SOLOMON-SIMMONS

graduated high school from famous Booker T. Washington High School in Tulsa, Oklahoma where he was an outstanding scholastic athlete. Because of his love of sports over studies and his love of street culture at the time, he graduated at the bottom of his class academically. That big time football scholarship he had hoped

for never came. He instead had to accept a scholarship to play at small Northeastern State University in Tahlequah, Oklahoma where he hoped his dream to play in the National Football League (NFL) would begin. Unfortunately because of being unprepared academically, after one year at Northeastern, Solomon-Simmons, dropped out of Northeastern and moved to Dallas, Texas.

In Dallas, reality hit Solomon-Simmons when he realized that he was on his own and had to work and pay bills like any other adult. He had fallen into real world issues of paying bills and making a living without a formal education. He then understood that without an education, he would be left to work minimum paying jobs the rest of his life. The time he spent in Dallas was life changing.

He decided to return to school and left Dallas returning to Tulsa and enrolled into local Tulsa Community College in 1995. He completed his Associates degree majoring in Art and History graduating in 1997. Still having hopes of playing professional football, he enrolled into the University of Oklahoma in Norman to earn his undergraduate degree. He tried out for the powerful Sooner football team and as a gifted linebacker, he made the team.

Once on the team, he was able to see first hand how an NFL caliber linebacker performed. He realized that he would not become a professional football player but understood that the time he spent in Dallas on his own gave him insight that he could survive without football although he remained on the team. He focused most of his attention to his studies but still had hopes of reaching the NFL. Those hopes departed when, during his senior year, he tore his ACL, which ended his career. Nonetheless, Solomon-Simmons would graduate with honors from Oklahoma University in 1999 with a Bachelor of Arts degree in African & African American Studies. While in undergrad, he took Post Graduate studies in African History.

Solomon-Simmons remained at the University to further his education. In 2001, he received his M.Ed. degree in Adult & Higher Education. He then went on to obtain his Juris Doctorate degree from the University's College of Law in 2004. He would later receive honor from the law school when he became the first University of Oklahoma African American law student to be awarded the school's prestigious Joel Jankowsky Most Outstanding Graduate Award.

To begin his professional legal career, Solomon-Simmons became a Staff Lobbyist for The Capital Group based in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma. There he conducted research, prepared official position papers, attended and took notes at state Senate and House hearings, and handled correspondence between legislative mem-

bers and the law firm. He also served as a liaison between the legislative bodies and the firm's clients.

After two years working at The Capital Group, Solomon-Simmons stepped out on his own to become a co-founder of the law firm, SolomonSimmonsSharrock & Associates, with offices in his hometown of Tulsa. He would operate from his Tulsa office for the next nine years. At the firm, he was responsible for the expert witnesses the firm might need for pending cases and to prepare them for any upcoming trials. Still having a love of football, he served as the General Counsel to several collegiate athletes that were becoming professional athletes representing them in their contract negotiations. He successfully negotiated contracts for three NFL First Round Draft picks and landed the largest African American medical clinic in the state of Oklahoma.

In 2006, Solomon-Simmons became an Adjunct Professor at his alma mater, the University of Oklahoma College of Arts & Sciences. He is credited with creating courses for undergraduate students that focuses on African and African American history, culture and other pertinent concerns. In his own studies, he compiled a bibliography of material given the students for outside reading.

In 2009, Solomon-Simmons co-founded the MVP Foundation. The Foundation promotes and manages educational, social, and economic programs for inner-city youth. He gives particular attention to African American males to give them structure and opportunities to become aware of resources available to them hoping to make them productive citizens. In 2011, Solomon-Simmons opened SolomonSimmonsConsulting, which focuses on relationship building, legislative monitoring aimed at diversity programs, community relations, and educational initiatives.

In 2013, Solomon-Simmons became the Legislative Liaison for the Oklahoma Policy Institute, a Tulsa premier think tank. The Institute provides timely and credible information for fiscally responsible funding of public services to Oklahomans. Two years later, in 2015, after the retirement of his long time law partner, Susan R. Sharrock, Solomon-Simmons joined the law firm of Riggs Abney Neal Turpen Orbison & Lewis in their Tulsa offices. For the firm, he continues to represent sports and entertainment figures, litigates government and commercial business related matters, and pursues cases of diversity inclusion and employment discrimination. He also serves as an attorney for civil rights injustices and personal injury.

Solomon-Simmons would be brought into the national spotlight in 2016 with the unfortunate shooting of African American Terence Crutcher in Tulsa. Forty year old Crutcher was shot and killed by white Tulsa police officer Betty Shelby while standing near his broken down vehicle in the middle of a north Tulsa street. Solomon-Simmons would represent the Crutcher family doing this ordeal. Crutcher had been shot while his hands were up but walking away from officer Shelby. She shot Crutcher claiming she feared for her life and was subsequently acquitted.

Solomon-Simmons continues to practice law in Tulsa and continues his foundation work on behalf of young African American and other minority kids. He runs camps for kids where he invites professional and retired professional athletes to come to Tulsa to speak and mentor with them. Solomon-Simmons himself is called upon to travel the country to speak to other like minded groups, all aimed at strengthening and helping young high school students find their way to a better and successful life.



Photo Not Available



## MYZELL SOWELL

...was born in 1924 on the North End neighborhood in Detroit, Michigan. He graduated from Northern High School before enrolling into Detroit's Wayne State University where he received his undergradu-

ate degree. He earned his law degree from the Detroit College of Law.

After passing the Michigan State Bar exam, he entered private practice where he would litigate law for the next fifteen years. In the 1960s, Sowell litigated civil rights cases in the segregated south of the country. He represented civil rights victims in Meridian, Mississippi, and Selma, Alabama. Back in Detroit, he represented clients who demonstrated in the 1963 Freedom March in Detroit and the 1967 Detroit riots.

It was in defense of these civil rights demonstrators, most of whom were black, that he joined the fledgling Legal Aid and Defender Office. While serving in the Legal Aid's Office, Sowell represented defendants who were unable to pay for their legal services. He served as a legal architect and built defense cases that were pivotal in having demonstrators released from jail or having their charges reduced or in some cases dismissed.

The office became an incubator for community activism and social awareness. During the 1970s, Sowell represented the Black Action Movement (BAM), a University of Michigan African American student organization where college students held strikes on the Michigan campus protesting discriminatory policies held by the university administrators. During that time, Sowell also served for two years as the President of the Wolverine Bar Association.

Sowell served for twelve years as the chief defender of those that called upon the Legal Aid and Defender Office for help. He trained many young lawyers as well as seasoned attorney how to litigate successfully through the Detroit courts. Sowell is credited with helping to launch the successful careers of many of Michigan's powerful lawyers and judges that chose law as their profession.

A few of the attorneys that learned from Sowell while serving at the Defender Office include Michigan United States Senator Carl Levin who served as Sowell's Chief

Deputy Defender before being named as a member of the Detroit Common Council. Other notable and successful Detroit attorneys that came from Sowell's tutelage include attorneys Jeff Edison, Gerald Evelyn, and Steve Fishman. During Sowell's tenure at the Defender Offices, sixteen of the attorneys hired by became judges. Since his departure thirty years ago, the office has produced on two judges. A few of the attorneys that began with Sowell that became Judges include Vera Massey Jones, Warfield Moore Jr., Michael Sapala, Beverly Jasper, Susan Borman, Daphne Means Curtis, Ray Reynolds Graves, George Crockett III, James Roberts, David Kerwyn, Patricia Schneider, Chris E. Stith, Marcia Cooke, Jeanette O'Banner-Owens.

Sowell gave much support to many civic organizations and legal associations and was a strong supporter of the National Conference of Black Lawyers. He is credited with starting the long-running Barristers' Ball and has been recognized by many local and national organizations. He was presented with a Certificate of Recognition from the National Lawyers Guild for his front line legal work for the 1963 Mississippi Summer Freedom Project that sought voting rights for African American's in Mississippi and was given a Champion of Justice Award by the Michigan State Bar Association. Sowell was also given the Damon J. Keith Humanitarian Award and the Wolverine Bar Association's Trailblazer's Award. In addition, he received the Man of the Year Award from the Detroit Urban Center.

Sowell was a very warm and considerate man. He loved teaching people and lawyers legal techniques and how to be prepared to litigate the law. He led by example and took the time to explain what a person should look for and how to learn. Sowell was married for fifty-eight years to his wife Robin, who served for many years as a Detroit Court Clerk and became the Department Manager for Court Clerk Services for five years.

Sowell, who was eighty-four years old, died only a few days before he was to be inducted into the National Bar Association's Hall of Fame, the nation's leading organization of African-American lawyers and judges.





## MONIQUE CHANTELLE SPARKS

...received her undergraduate degree in 2003 from Dillard University in New Orleans, Louisiana majoring in Political Science. She earned her Juris Doctorate degree in 2006 and was admitted to the bar association the same year. She began her professional legal career focusing on the areas of criminal and family law.

Sparks serves as the principal in her law firm, The Sparks Law Firm. She is a deeply believer in her faith and will pray with her clients before meetings no matter the religion of her client. For those interested, she invites them to her home to share reading the Bible and to study its' word. She accepts them as though they were family and is often saddened if a case is ruled against her clients. She believes in the sturdiness of the justice system and feels that it is the fabric by which our society operates. She is a hard working and ethical attorney that gives high priorities to the needs of her community.

Sparks has represented many clients victoriously including obtaining a dismissal of false charges against a client facing twenty-five years in prison for an alleged first degree felony super aggravated sexual assault charge against a child. She won an acquittal for a charge of unlawful possession of a weapon by a habitual offender who also faced a possible sentence of twenty-five years. Sparks won cases involving terrorist threats, substance abuse and possession charges, and aggravated robbery.

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

The show was designed to set itself apart from the cat fighting, bitch calling, and back stabbing reality shows that were being aired on national cable channels. The show wanted to show African American women who were not represented as angry or that married a rich athlete or

entertainer. The show followed the women through their daily lives of client interviews, including accused murderers, and took the viewers into the courtrooms with the women attorneys.

Sparks is a member of the State Bar College of Texas, the Texas Criminal Defense Lawyers Association, and the Houston Young Lawyers Association. She also served as the National Criminal Defense Lawyers Association. In addition, Sparks is a graduate of the Gerry Spence Trial Lawyers College and served as a member of the Vivian King Campaign.



## Bobby STAFFORD

... was born and raised in Williamsburg County, South Carolina and was one of thirteen children. After completing high school, he attended North Carolina A&T in Greensboro, North Carolina where he received his undergraduate degree. He then enrolled into Washington, D.C.'s Howard University where he obtained his Juris Doctorate degree.

After completing his studies at Howard, Stafford opened up a law office in nearby Alexandria, Virginia where he would operate for the next forty-six years as a practicing criminal defense attorney. He married Mary Raby, an attorney as well, and remained married to her for forty-six years as well. Together, they had one daughter, Stacy, also a lawyer.

Stafford litigated cases in small municipal courts as well as larger federal courts. He handled small cases of minor traffic violations to federally charged criminal cases. He represented clients falsely charged with offenses and clients that were guilty of their crimes but needed representation to ensure their own particular civil rights were obtained despite their guilt. During his lengthy legal career, he has seen reprehensible crimes, crimes of passion, and clearly innocent defendants railroaded by overzealous prosecuting attorneys. In each of his representations, Stafford was known in legal circles as a reputable foe.

During his career, Stafford represented a host of defendants having varying charges pending against them. Some were minor while others involved them spending time in prison, which affected the lives of many. He once represented a local well-known minister charged with raping and beating a woman outside a Fairfax City, Virginia hotel. Through Stafford's wrangling and extensive filings of briefs, in the case a plea deal was struck and the minister served only sixteen months in jail. The accused minister was not even made to register as a sex offender.

In another case, he represented a Fairfax County man accused of burglary in which he allegedly targeted South Asian immigrants and business owners who kept large amounts of cash, gold, and other valuables stashed inside

their homes. The burglar was accused of stealing hundreds of thousands of dollars worth of cash and valuables before being caught. Stafford's client had been caught with tools of the trade and was charged with the neighborhood burglaries. Stafford argued that by simply having possession of tools used in burglaries, including police scanners, crowbars, and a list of South Asian homeowners addresses, did not constitute a crime. His client's fingerprints were not confiscated at any of the burglarized homes, no videotapes showing his client present during any of the burglaries, and his client was not caught with any stolen loot. The Fairfax Judge in the case dismissed the charges. Unfortunately, federal prosecutors brought charges against Stafford's client and the client ultimately was sentenced to prison.

Stafford made every attempt possible to treat everyone with civility and kindness even in the midst of hotly contested trials. Whether it was an opposing attorney, antagonized or hostile witness, a family member upset with an unfavorable verdict or sentence, he would always attempt to bring solace to the situation. If all involved reached an amicable accord, they knew the ending would culminate with a firm handshake or his trademark bear hug. He had a wonderful sense of humor, a vast resource of information on legal matters, and had a massive handshake when being introduced. His loving but crushing bear hugs, which were given as an endearment gesture, were always remembered by those fortunate enough to have fallen into the arms of Stafford

Stafford volunteered of his time extensively and gave to many charitable organizations. He served on the Board of Visitors of Norfolk State University in Norfolk, Virginia, served as the President of the Arlington Community Action Program, and served as the General Counsel for the Martin Luther King Jr. Community Center in Alexandria, Virginia. He also served as a Board member of the Campbell A.M.E. Church.

Stafford was an active member in Democratic politics. He worked on the presidential campaign of New York's Shirley Chisholm and stayed abreast of local and national politics. Always impeccably dressed in expansive double-breasted pinstriped suits with his signature white hats and flashy gold rings, he was easily recognizable, even from afar. He knew the language of the streets, spoke the decorum of the courts, and knew each and every nuance in between.





## MICHAEL STEPHEN STEELE

...was born on October 19, 1958 in Prince George's County, Maryland. He was adopted as an infant by Mae-bell and William Steele. His father died when he was four years old. His mother whose parents were South Carolina sharecroppers worked as a laundress desiring to work

rather than accept welfare to provide for her family. She later remarried and the family moved to the Washington, D.C. Petworth neighborhood where Michael and his sister, Monica were raised. She would later marry and divorce heavyweight boxing champion, Mike Tyson.

Steele graduated from Washington, D.C.'s Archbishop Carroll Roman Catholic High School. In high school, he was a member of the Glee Club, the National Honor Society, and participated in the theatrical productions for his school. He was also the Student Council President in his senior year. For his undergraduate degree in International Studies, he attended Johns Hopkins University in Baltimore, Maryland.

Wanting to become a priest, Steele enrolled into Villanova University's Augustinian Friars Seminary in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. After spending three years at Villanova, and not being ordained, he spent one year teaching World History and Economics at Malvern Preparatory School in Malvern, Pennsylvania. He returned to his hometown of Washington, D.C. to enroll into the Georgetown University Law Center where, in 1991, he received his Juris Doctor. Taking and failing the Maryland bar exam, he then took and passed the Pennsylvania bar exam.

He accepted his first legal job with the D.C. law firm of Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton as a Corporate Securities Associate. During the next six years, he would work in the firm's Tokyo, Japan and London, England's offices as an underwriter for Wall Street financial investors and corporate product liability litigations. In 1978, he left the firm to form his own company, the Steele Group.

He joined the Republican Party and soon rose to become the Chairman of the Prince George's County Maryland's Republican Central Committee. In 1993, he became one of the founding members of the conservative Republican Leadership Council. For his work for the Party, in 2005, he was named the Maryland Republican Man of the Year. He would leave the Republican Leadership Council years later after having disagreements over which primary candidates the organization would endorse.

With political power rising, for the 1996 Republican National Convention, he was named as an Alternate Delegate. For the 2000 convention, he was named a Delegate. Later that year, he was elected as the Chairman of the Maryland Republican Party. He became the first African American to be ever elected as Chairman of any state Republican Party in the U.S.

In 2002, Steele was selected by Robert Ehrlich in his bid to win the Governor's race as his running mate. Running on a platform of reforming then Governor Parris Glendening's strict enforcement of environmental regulations and taking advantage of the issues surrounding the incumbent Governor's marital issues, Erlich and Steele became

victorious. Winning the primary against Democrat Kathleen Kennedy Townsend, Ehrlich became Governor and Steele became the Lieutenant Governor, the first time in forty years that Republicans had control of the State House in Maryland. Steele, with his election, became the first African American ever elected to any statewide office in Maryland.

As Lieutenant Governor, Steele went about reforming the state's minority involvement with state contracts working closely with the state's Minority Business Enterprise. He served as Chair of the Governor's Commission on Quality Education in Maryland. He did receive some negative press when Governor Ehrlich decided to reinstitution the state's death penalty. Many were critical of Steel for not opposing the measure as it was against his religious beliefs and his past position of "anti" on the issue.

In 2004, Steele was selected by the Republican Party to deliver a counterpoint at their 2004 Republican National Convention. After the Democrats chose upcoming political giant Barack Obama to deliver their keynote address at their 2004 Democratic National Convention, Steele took advantage of the opportunity to gain national exposure. His counterpoint speech gave him not only a national spotlight but access to the National Republican Party insiders. For his efforts in the Republican Party, in 2005, President George W. Bush named Steele as a member of the U.S. delegation for the ecclesiastical investiture of Pope Benedict XVI in Vatican City, Italy. That year, he was also named an Aspen Institute Rodell Fellow in Public Leadership.

With Steele's rising popularity, Maryland's longest-serving U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes announced that he would not seek re-election for his Senate seat. The Republican Party pressed Steele to enter the race. He did so and won the Republican nomination to face Democratic nominee Benjamin L. Cardin of Baltimore County. Steele ran a campaign on lowering taxes, free trade markets, national security and to reduce government spending. During the campaign, allegations were made by his former Chairman of his campaign, that there were inappropriate handling of funds by Steele of which he denied. Nonetheless, Steele lost the election to Cardin by a 55-44 vote margin.

Steele then sought the position as Chairman of the Republican National Committee. Florida Senator Mel Martinez, with the support of President Bush, was appointed to the position. Steele would, however, in 2007, become the Chairman of GOPAC. The organization has as its' intended purpose to train future Republican candidates around the country and to assist them in their fundraising efforts. That same year, he became a partner in the Washington, D.C. office of the international law firm of Dewey & LeBoeuf, headquartered in New York City.

Steele has appeared on numerous political pundit TV shows over the years sharing his views on current political issues. He has appeared on "Real Time with Bill Maher", "The Colbert Report", and many of the national Sunday morning news and political broadcast shows. In Baltimore, for the Public Broadcasting Station, he hosted a Republican Primary debate.

For the 2008 Republican National Convention, Steel was again asked to speak. With U.S. energy consumption at an all time high, environmentalists and the big oil companies were at odds. Offshore drilling was a hot topic and in his remarks to the convention, Steele is credited with coining the phrase, "Drill, baby, drill", to show his support on the controversial issue of offshore drilling as an alternative to the U.S. purchases of foreign oil.

In November of 2008, Steele again ran for the Chairmanship of the Republican National Committee. On the sixth round of voting he became Victorious. In January of 2009, he became the first African American Chairman of the Party.



## HAROLD ARNOLDUS STEVENS

...was born on October 19, 1907 in John's Island, South Carolina. He was raised on a 1,000 that his father owned. Stevens had made his decision to become a lawyer at the age

of nineteen after horrible incident that occurred in Aiken, South Carolina. Accused of killing a local Sheriff, a black woman and her two brothers were killed when they were dragged behind a car from the Aiken jail, through the streets of the town for all to see, then shot and mutilated. There was no protest from the African American community, which angered the young White. It was then that he decided to become a lawyer to end such treatment of his community.

He received his undergraduate degree from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina. Not being able to attend the segregated law school at the University of South Carolina, he moved to Boston, Massachusetts to receive his law degree from the Boston College Law School. He would receive his law degree in 1936. He then enlisted into the military to fulfill his military duties. He served in World War II.

After passing the Massachusetts Bar, Stevens began his legal profession as a private law attorney. He moved to New York City two years later to take a position as Counsel to the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters and the Provisional Committee to Organize Colored Locomotive Firemen. It did not take Stevens long to gain national attention. With appreciation for the work that Stevens was doing in New York, then President Franklin D. Roosevelt appointed him to the Fair Employment Practices Committee.

In 1946, Stevens ran and was elected to the New York State Assembly. He represented the Thirteenth District of Manhattan and served two terms. In 1950, he was elected to the New York Court of General Sessions. With his election, he became the first African American to sit on the General Sessions bench.

Being named the first African American named to that post was the beginning of several first for Stevens. In 1955, then Governor W. Averell Harriman appointed Ste-

vens to the New York Supreme Court. He became the first African American to take a seat on the Supreme Court Justice in New York State. He was elected to a full fourteen-year term in the next general election.

Stevens achieved another first, when in 1958 Governor Harriman appointed him to the Appellate Division, First Department. He became the first African American Associate Justice to serve. In 1969, then Governor Nelson Rockefeller pegged White to be the Presiding Justice of the Court, another first for an African American.

In 1974, Stevens was appointed by then Governor Malcolm Wilson to the New York Court of Appeals filling the vacancy of Justice Charles Breitel. Stevens again became a first, the first African American to serve on the Court. With that appointment, Stevens became the highest-ranking African American in New York's judicial system.

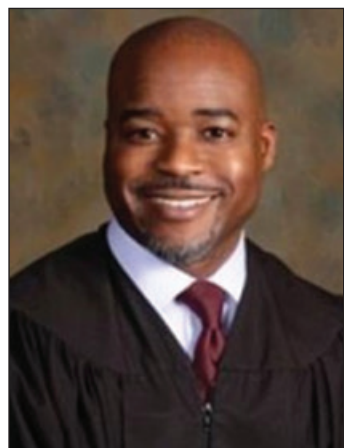
When Stevens's appointed term was ending, he ran for the seat in the general election on the Republican, Conservative and Liberal tickets but was defeated by Democrat Jacob D. Fuchsberg. Losing the election but not defeated, Stevens was able to return to the Appellate Division where he resumed his Presiding Justice position. He would retire from the bench two years later.

Active in community affairs and that of his Catholic religion, Stevens served as President of the Catholic Interracial Council. For his dedicated service to the church and his work on interracial issue, Pope Pius XII presented to Stevens the Church's Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice award. The award is given to recognize the outstanding service given to the Pope and the Catholic Church. Stevens was also a member of the Board of Trustees of the Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New York.

Stevens has been honored with several honorary degrees. He has received Doctor of Laws degrees from Benedict College in Columbia, South Carolina; Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska; Fordham University in New York City; and the University of South Carolina in Columbia, South Carolina. Justice Stevens was married to Ella Clyde Myers Stevens. The couple had no children.

Harold Arnoldus Stevens died of a heart attack in his home on November 9, 1990. He was eighty-three years old.





## OLU A. STEVENS

... received his undergraduate degree in Psychology from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia graduating in 1992. For his Juris Doctorate degree, he attended George Washington University Law School in Washington, D.C. where he completed his studies in 1995. He was admitted to the Kentucky Bar the following year.

Stevens opened his own law firm, Olu A. Stevens, PLLC in Louisville, Kentucky in 1996. He would operate the firm as the principal for the next ten years. During that time, he served as an Assistant Attorney of Jefferson County handling cases for the Louisville courts. He also served as an outside attorney for the law firm of Stoll Keenon Ogden, PLLC.

In 2009, then Democratic Governor Steve Beshear appointed Stevens become a Circuit Court Judge for the 30th Judicial Circuit presiding over Jefferson County of Kentucky. Judge Stevens was elected to a full term in the 2010 general election winning 60.55 percent of the vote. During that election, he was the highest rated Judge in the Louisville Bar Association's Judicial Poll. In the 2014 election, he was re-elected running unopposed and will serve an eight year term that ends on January 1, 2023.

In November of 2014, Judge Stevens came under fire when, at the request of a black public defender, he dismissed a jury because the panel was made up of forty white people and had only one black person. The Commonwealth attorney, Tom Wine of Jefferson County, questioned Judge Stevens' impartiality in dismissing the jurors and stated his reason for questioning Judge Stevens' actions on a Facebook posts the Judge had posted explaining his decision to dismiss the jury. Stevens wrote, "Granting a defense motion to dismiss a jury panel of forty whites and one black does not make me a racist. And calling people on racist language doesn't make me a racist either."

Wine then made a request to Kentucky Supreme Court Chief Justice John D. Minton, Jr. on November 18, 2015, requesting that Judge Stevens be removed from all criminal cases before him. In his request, Wine asked for clarification from the State Supreme Court on whether Stevens had judicial power to dismiss a jury based on its' racial composition. Wine went on to make a claim that with Judge Stevens post included accusations that Wine had enticed the media to attack Judge Stevens in an effort to deceive the people of the Commonwealth and the posts could cause members of a selected jury to become biased against the Commonwealth's Attorney's Office. Ironically, the previous day, Assistant Commonwealth Attorney Dorislee

Gilbert had requested that Judge Stevens be removed from two cases for other inflammatory comments he had made online.

Judge Stevens responded to the request for dismissal by making an online post rebutting Wine's request and posted that going to the Kentucky Supreme Court to protect the rights of selecting all-white juries for litigation purposes was not where the judicial process should be in the year 2015. Chief Justice Minton ordered Judge Stevens and Wine to undergo mediation conducted by a four-person panel but did not remove the Judge from all criminal cases ruling that "disqualification from all criminal cases would be highly disruptive not only for the litigants but for the justice system as a whole".

On April 1, 2016, Judge Stevens filed a federal lawsuit against the Kentucky Judicial Conduct Commission citing violations of his First Amendment rights. He claimed that by sending him a notification saying that the Commission intended to "sanction, suspend or remove" him from the bench because of his comments posted on Facebook, his constitutional rights had been violated. The Kentucky Supreme Court agreed to hear the case.

On March 16, 2016, the Kentucky State Court of made a ruling that Judge Stevens had not followed state law in dismissing the jury. The state law dictated that law requires the jury pool to have a cross-section of the community, but not necessarily the jury panel. The Appellate Court ordered Judge Stevens to refrain from further dismissals of juries unless he followed the statutes of the state law.

That same month, the Kentucky Judicial Conduct Commission charged Judge Stevens with six counts of judicial misconduct surrounding the disagreements he had with Tom Wine. According to the Commission's ruling, Judge Stevens violated judicial ethics rules by posting on Facebook that Wine was a racist who wants "all-white juries" and for calling defense attorneys hypocrites for not supporting him. Judge Stevens was suspended with pay while the Judicial Conduct Commission completed its' thorough investigation.

In August, all sides came to a settlement agreement and Judge Stevens withdrew his federal lawsuit against the Commission. He made a statement indicating that he recognized the seriousness of making accusations against someone, either expressly or implicitly, of being a racist. He apologized for his statements about Wine and Wine issued a statement accepting the apology. In the end, Judge Stevens served a ninety-day suspension without pay. The Commission accepted the agreement voting 6-0 in favor.

Judge Stevens has served as a member of the American Bar Association, the Louisville Bar Association, and the Kentucky Circuit Judges Association. He has been given numerous awards including having received the General Practice Link Bar Leader of the Year Award from the American Bar Association, the Adopted Alumni Society Award from the University of Louisville in Kentucky, and the Legal Aid Society's Outstanding Volunteer Lawyer Award.



## BYRAN A. STEVENSON

...received his undergraduate degree from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1985. He earned his Master's degree in Public Policy from Harvard's Kennedy School of Government. He remained at Harvard

to obtain his Juris Doctorate degree from the Harvard School of Law.

When Stevenson began his law degree, he turned his attention to the needs of capital defendants and death row prisoners in the Deep South. He first became a staff attorney with the Southern Center for Human Rights based in Atlanta, Georgia. Four years later, in 1989, he founded and became the Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative (EJI), a private, nonprofit law organization headquartered in Montgomery, Alabama. EJI gives its' attention to social justice and human rights needs in the context of criminal justice reform in the United States. Stevenson and EJI represents juvenile offenders, people wrongly convicted or charged with alleged crimes, condemned prisoners, poor people denied effective legal representation, and others whose trials are marked by racial bias or prosecutorial misconduct.

In 1998, Stevenson joined the clinical faculty at New York University School of Law in New York City. In joining the law school staff, he was presented with an excellent opportunity to explore new ways to train law students to consider serving the legal needs of the poor. His faculty position also gave him an audience in which he could persuade future law students to consider serving the indigent and deprived regions of the country, such as America's Deep South.

Stevenson and the EJI both have always served as advocates for the elimination of unfair sentencing for the convicted, exonerating innocent death row prisoners, and confronting the abuse of the incarcerated as well as the mentally ill. Another important focus of the EJI is aiding children that have been or are in the process of being prosecuted as adults. Under the leadership of Stevenson, EJI has provided a safe haven and given great hope to those who have become unable to fend for themselves whether guilty by association, circumstance, family dis-

cord, family dysfunction, or simply by having become a victim of life's misfortune.

Stevenson has successfully argued cases before the United States Supreme Court, including winning an historic ruling that made mandatory life without parole sentences for all children seventeen years or younger unconstitutional. Stevenson, along with his gifted legal staff, have won well needed reversals, relief or release for over one hundred and fifteen wrongly condemned prisoners awaiting death on death row. He has initiated significant anti-poverty and anti-discrimination policies that challenge the legacy of racial inequality in the United States, including major projects aimed at educating communities about slavery, lynching and racial segregation in modern day America.

Stevenson has served as a Visiting Professor of Law at the University of Michigan School of Law and has published several widely disseminated publications centered on capital litigation. He has written extensively on capital punishment, civil rights issues, and criminal justice. He also penned the New York Times Bestseller, "Just Mercy", which won the 2015 Carnegie Medal for Best Non-Fiction, the Dayton Literary Peace Prize, and the NAACP Image Award for Best Non-Fiction.

Stevenson has won national acclaim for his dedicated work on behalf of the imprisoned or those facing imprisonment. He was the 1989 recipient of the Reebok Human Rights Award, the 1991 ACLU National Medal of Liberty, the 1995 prestigious MacArthur Fellowship "Genius" Award Prize, the 1996 National Association of Public Interest Lawyers' Public Interest Lawyer of the Year, and the 2000 Olaf Palme Prize for international human rights. Stevenson has been given a 2004 Award for Courageous Advocacy from the American College of Trial Lawyers, a 2004 Lawyer for the People Award from the National Lawyers Guild, and a 2006 Distinguished Teaching Award from NYU. He has also received twenty-six honorary degrees from several universities, including the Georgetown University School of Law, Harvard, Princeton, Yale, and the University of Pennsylvania.





## JOYCELYN STEVENSON

...graduated high school from Mount de Sales Academy in Catonsville, Maryland in 1994 before entering Washington, D.C.'s Howard University where she received a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science in 1998.

While at Howard, she made the Dean's List in the Honors Program and became a member of both the Phi Beta Kappa and Pi Sigma Alpha.

To obtain her law degree, Stevenson attended Vanderbilt University Law School in Nashville, Tennessee. At Vanderbilt, she was a member of the schools Moot Court Board and the Journal of Entertainment Law and Practice. She graduated from Vanderbilt in 2001.

After leaving Vanderbilt, Stevenson became an associate attorney at the law firm of Boulton Cummings Connors and Berry, PLC. She remained with the firm for seven years. She then became a private practicing attorney as a partner with the law firm of Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings LLP. During that time, she served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at her alma mater, Vanderbilt University Law School teaching for only one semester.

At Bradley Arant Boulton Cummings LLP, Stevenson served as the lead attorney and primary case manager for the firm's commercial and employment litigation department. She represented corporations and hospitals throughout the country by providing initial and supplemental case analysis, conducting interviews and preparing witnesses for depositions and trials, and overseeing the document productions needed to support litigations. Stevenson drafted pre-trial motions, participated in bench and jury trials, and handled any employee issues related with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and all state human rights commissions.

For the law firm, Stevenson was responsible for the negotiation of contractual agreements, including business acquisition and lease agreements, independent contractor agreements, noncompetition agreements, and separation of employment agreements. She conducted on and off-site training programs for employees and managers for the firm and for clients needing those services as required by the EEOC. Stevenson also advised

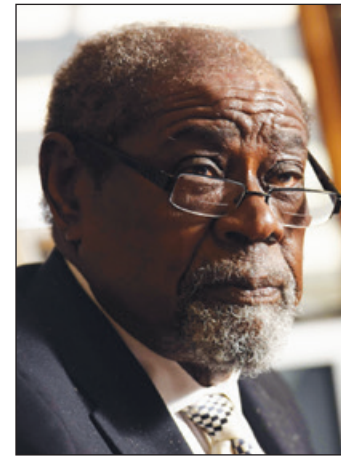
the firm's clients on issues surrounding immigration laws, filed nonimmigrant employment visa petitions for client's employees, and advised her clients on I-9 audits and compliance regulations.

Stevenson served as a member of the firm's Hiring Committee for eight years. She also served as a lead attorney in the firm's partnership with the Tennessee Justice Center. For the Center, Stevenson assisted Tennessee residents with their TennCare appeals process. TennCare is a division of Tennessee's Health Care Finance and Administration department.

In 2013, Stevenson became a shareholder in the law firm of Littler Mendelson, P.C. in Nashville. The firm is the largest labor and employment firm in the United States. For the law firm, Stevenson served as the lead attorney and manager of employment litigation for companies throughout the country. She also advised companies on their hiring and firing practices as well as discrimination and retaliation claims under Title VII, the ADEA, the ADA, the FMLA, and state laws.

In 2016, Stevenson became the President of the Nashville Bar Association. She had previously served as President of the Lawyers' Association for Women and as President of the Council on Aging of Greater Nashville. She was the first African American woman to serve as President of both the Bar Association and the Lawyer's Association. Stevenson also served as the Secretary of the Nashville Farmer's Market Board.

Stevenson has been awarded the Nashville Area Chamber of Commerce's Nashville Emerging Leaders Award in the legal services category. She has received the Napier Looby Bar Association's J.C. Napier Trailblazing Award, a Nashville Chamber Emerging Leader Award, and the Nashville Business Journal's 40 under 40 Award. Stevenson also received a Nashville Athena Young Professionals Award.



## DELANO S. STEWART

...attended high school in the public schools of Tampa and Hillsborough County, Florida. He was raised in a working class family with his father, Garland Stewart serving as a role model who achieved notoriety amongst Tampa's residents. His father was a Principal in a local Tampa middle

school and had lost an arm when he was a child in a conveyor belt accident. Despite having only one arm, Garland used a prosthetic and did not let his handicap become a deterrent of what he could and could not do. A well-respected man, the Tampa school district would name a middle school in his honor, the Garland V. Stewart Middle Magnet School.

Stewart knew he wanted to become a lawyer at an early age. He was twelve years old when he met famed attorney and future U.S. Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall when Marshall paid a visit to Tampa to assist and campaign for African American teachers to gain equal pay for their services. Stewart's father was also a civil rights pioneer and after meeting Marshall, the young Stewart knew that fighting for others rights was his calling. He joined in with other civil rights activists in their causes and even attended the 1963 March on Washington to hear Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. deliver his famous "I Have A Dream" speech.

Delano received his undergraduate degree from Morehouse College in Atlanta, Georgia. To obtain his law degree, he attended Washington, D.C.'s Howard University Law School. After completing his law school studies, Stewart returned to Tampa to begin his law degree. Because of his name and his academic achievements, five months after returning to Hillsborough County, Stewart was named as a Board Member for the Hillsborough County Young Democrats. He was the first African-American to be named to the Board.

In his first legal professional job, in 1966, Stewart became the first African-American Assistant Public Defender in Hillsborough County. He worked as an Assistant Public Defender for just six months, leaving after he was skipped over for a promotion, which was given to a newly hired white law school graduate having less qualifications than he did. Feeling disrespected, something his father taught him to never accept, Stewart left the Public Defender's Office entering private practice.

He began to represent clients that were either picked on or discriminated against because they were African American. He made it a priority to attempt to change the views of people who viewed blacks as being inferior and used himself as a symbol of accomplishment of what African Americans could become. He touted his achievements as an inspiration for other African-Americans to strive for.

Stewart's philosophy that he learned from a teacher early on was that one day, no matter what, he would die. There was no alternative to death and no one could control when they died. What

they could control was how they lived. He believed that if one pursued what they believed in, death is inconsequential.

Stewart was selected to serve as an administrator to the Hillsborough County School District. He was the first African-American administrator to serve on the School Board and played a pivotal role in integrating the county's schools. He serves as the Supervisor of Negro Education. In that role, Stewart used his power to show other African American students, teachers, and parents that history has taught that power is usually taken or those that have it will only share it out of fear of losing it. He willingly shared his power with other African Americans so they could provide or obtain a better education. He believed that by sharing power a strong community could be built.

In June of 1967, a riot broke out in Tampa after a white police officer fatally shot an unarmed black teenager. Nearly one thousand law enforcement officers were called in to quell the rioting. Once the riot ended, Stewart and others local community leaders persuaded the Hillsborough County Sheriff's Office to form a citizen's patrol, which was made up of young African American youth. The youth walked the cities neighborhoods helping to keep the peace. The young civil patrol city residents were known as the "White Hats", as each of them wore white headgear to show solidarity and to be easily recognized. The patrol received international press coverage for their work keeping peace in the city.

Following the riot, the city of Tampa made a concerted effort to bring more African Americans into City Hall. The Mayor's office hired its' first African American secretary and an African American was selected to head the Tampa Housing Authority. The city would integrate its' fire department and hired African American Assistant City Attorneys.

In 1970, Stewart integrated his law firm and hired its' first white attorney, Martin Lawyer III. In hiring Lawyer, Stewart's law firm became the first integrated law firm in the history of the state of Florida. Rather than attempt other lawyers to integrate their own law firms as African Americans were trying to integrate white institutions, he decided to make the reverse integration himself. Integrating his law firm was one of the high marks in Stewart's legal career.

In 1971, Stewart entered the race for a seat on the Tampa City Council. Unfortunately, he lost his bid for the seat, which would have made him the first African American to be elected to the City Council. It would be twelve years later before an African American would sit on the City Council with the distinction going to Perry Harvey Jr. in 1983.

Stewart was elected to serve on the Board of Directors of the Hillsborough County Bar Association. He was the first African American to sit on the Board. He became a member of the Rough Riders Civic Club and became its' first African American member. He also founded the George Edgecomb Bar Association, Tampa's predominantly African American bar association, and founded the Tampa Organization of Black Affairs, an organization that pursued economic, political education, and youth development. For his many years of service to Hillsborough County, the Delano S. Stewart Diversity Award was created and is given annually to an individual for their lifetime achievements to the improvement of the lives of African-Americans and has promoted diversity in the legal profession.





## McCANTS STEWART

...was born on July 11, 1877 in Brooklyn, New York as the eldest son of Charlotte L. Harris Stewart and of Thomas McCants Stewart. Both his parents were college educated with his father serving as a lawyer, a confidant of Booker T. Washington, and as an Associate Justice to the Liberia, African Supreme Court.

After attending the public schools in Brooklyn, Stewart entered Tuskegee Institute in Tuskegee, Alabama at the age of sixteen. Although his father was a follower of Washington's self-reliance philosophy, Stewart himself was not. He was eventually expelled from Tuskegee but was later readmitted graduating in 1896.

Stewart returned to New York and earned his law degree from the New York University's School of Law. To begin his legal career, he took a job in his father's law office as an associate attorney. He worked at his father's law firm for one year before moving to Minneapolis, Minnesota where he enrolled into the University of Minnesota Law School to further his legal education. At Minnesota, Stewart served on the school's newspaper staff and was active in the literary society. He was elected as the Secretary of his senior class and Sheriff of the Moot Court. He also worked for the Twin City American, a local newspaper, and the Afro-American Advance, another local paper.

While at the law school, Stewart sued a local restaurant for discrimination after being denied service. The restaurant owner had previously allowed African Americans service but after white patrons began not patronizing the establishment, he barred blacks entry. The owner was found in violation of the amendments that prohibited segregation and was fined.

After receiving his LL.B., as the first African American to receive an LL.B. from the University of Minnesota, he began practicing law in Minneapolis and St. Paul. He married Mary Delia "Mayme" Weir and bore one child, Mary Katherine. He kept his job at the local newspapers to supplement his income and began to build his law firm. Stewart became a member of the Republican Party and in 1902 he was elected as the Secretary of the Hennepin County Republican Club.

In 1904, Stewart decided to move to Oregon to test the open market for African American attorneys. In passing the state bar in Oregon, he became the first African American lawyer to practice law in the state of Oregon. He took a job as a Public Defender in the Portland court representing the small African American population residing in the city.

Stewart struggled with his law practice in Portland as whites refused to hire him for their legal needs. The African American population consisted of less than 1% of city residents and the educated African Americans did not need his services

so he focused on Japanese immigrants and their legal needs. After obtaining a few significant cases heard before the Oregon Supreme Court, the first African American attorney to appear before the court, Stewart gained a reputation as an able attorney. He began to take on discrimination cases and became successful in the cases he litigated.

In 1906, Stewart served as legal counsel in the "Taylor v. Cohn" case. The case involved the segregated practices of a Portland movie theater. Oliver Taylor, an African American Pullman car porter, had been denied general seating at the theatre and was forced to sit in the balcony. The Court ruled in favor of the theatre with Stewart making an appeal to the Oregon Supreme Court. The Supreme Court overruled the lower Court and a judgment was entered in Taylor's favor.

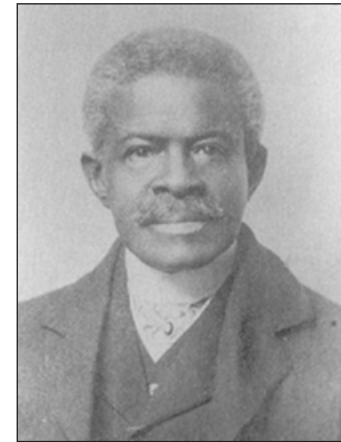
Although he was winning cases, Taylor still struggled financially. He had made investments into several private businesses, however, none brought financial security. He took on a job at The Advocate, the second oldest African American newspaper in Portland. Several years later, the building that housed Stewart's law office burned down and the newspaper gave him offices in their facilities from which he continued his practice until renovations were made to the burnt building.

Stewart went on to represent clients in areas of defamation, other discrimination cases, and employment issues. He became an outspoken advocate for oppressed African Americans arriving from the segregated South and fought to end lynchings that were occurring across the country. He even spoke out against then President Woodrow Wilson who Stewart did not feel was doing enough to end lynching.

In 1908, then Democratic Governor George Earle Chamberlain appointed Stewart as the Oregon Representative to the National Negro Fair held in Mobile, Alabama as the keynote speaker. He was then named by then Governor as the Chief Commissioner to then President William Howard Taft's National Emancipation Commemoration Society. In 1909, while running to catch a streetcar, Stewart slipped and fell causing severe damage to his left leg, which called for it to be amputated. Walking with a prosthetic leg, he soon developed eye problems. Unable to work for a period, he had to rely on charity to survive before returning to practice law.

Stewart decided to move to San Francisco, California in an attempt to improve his lifestyle. With his departure from Portland, the African American community was left with an African American attorney to represent their needs. In California, he met respected attorney Oscar Hudson and the two opened a law firm together.

Although life in San Francisco was better for him than Portland, Stewart still struggled financially in his practice. On April 14, 1919, with his eyesight almost gone and unable to read briefs and the newspaper, he wrote a farewell letter to his partner and family and then committed suicide by shooting himself in his head. Stewart was only forty-two years old.



## THOMAS McCANTS STEWART

...was born on December 28, 1853 in Charleston, South Carolina to Anna Morris Stewart and George Gilchrist Stewart. He graduated from a Charleston's Avery Normal Institute before entering Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1869 at the age of fifteen. While studying at Howard, Stewart was a contributor of articles published in the local African American newspaper, the Washington, D.C. New National Era.

Before completing his studies at Howard, Stewart transferred to the University of South Carolina at Columbia where he graduated in 1875 with a Bachelor of Arts degree. He was one of the first African Americans to attend and graduate from the University. He remained at the University attending the law school where he received his LL.B. degree.

After graduation, Stewart married Charlotte Pearl Harris and taught mathematics at the State Agricultural and Mechanical College in Orangeburg between 1877 and 1878. He also he joined the law firm of South Carolina Congressman Robert Brown Elliott.

After completing his law degree, took a position teaching Mathematics at the State Agricultural and Mechanical College in Orangeburg, now the South Carolina State University. He taught at the school for only one year, and that year he married Charlotte Pearl. Stewart then joined the law firm of South Carolina Congressmen Robert B. Elliott and D. Augustus Straker.

Stewart then joined the faculty as a Professor of Mathematics at the State Agricultural College. He later left South Carolina to enroll into Princeton College in Princeton, New Jersey to study religion. Two years later, Stewart became an ordained minister in the African Methodist Episcopal Church and served as the Pastor of Bethel African Methodist Episcopal Church in New York City, New York.

In 1883, after become a close friend of Booker T. Washington, Stewart moved to Liberia, Africa to become a Professor at Liberia College. Following Washington's philosophy of self-reliance, he taught students on improving themselves and to not rely on others for a handout.

After serving for two years in Liberia, Stewart returned to the United States and settled in Brooklyn, New York.

Back in the states, Stewart became active in politics and joined the Democratic Party. He later became the President of the Brooklyn Literary Union before becoming a member of the Brooklyn School Board where he served for three years. As a member of the School Board, he was pivotal in the establishment of Public School Number 83 in Weeksville, the first officially mixed-race public school to have an African American, Maritcha Lyons, as the Supervisor of teachers.

In 1998, Stewart left New York and moved to Hawaii where he remained for seven years before relocating to London, England in 1905. Six years later, he returned to Liberia to become an Associate Justice on the Liberian Supreme Court. After serving as an Associate Justice for three years, Judge Stewart became critical of then President Daniel Edward Howard, which resulted in his removal from the Supreme Court. He left Liberia in 1914 returning to London.

Judge Stewart remained in London for the next seven years before moving to the U.S. Virgin Islands where he continued to practice law. He partnered with attorney Christopher Payne to form a new law firm and practiced alongside Payne for two years. While practicing law, he wrote three books, "Liberia: the Americo-African Republic: Being Some Impressions of the Climate, Resources, and People, Resulting from Personal Observations and Experiences in West Africa"; "Revised Statutes of the Republic of Liberia: Being a Revision of the Statutes from the Organization of the Government"; and "and Including the Acts of the Legislature of 1910-1911", published posthumously.

Judge Stewart died in St. Thomas Virgin Islands on January 7, 1923. He was sixty-nine years old. At his funeral, his casket was draped in the Liberian flag, a choice made by Judge Stewart before his death. Ironically, Judge Stewart son, McCants Stewart, also became a lawyer and was the first African American attorney to practice in the state of Oregon.





## CARL BURTON STOKES

...was born in Cleveland, Ohio to Charles Stokes and Louise Stokes. Carl's father, a laundryman, died when Carl was three years old. His mother was left to raise Carl and his brother,

Louis, alone in Cleveland's first federally funded housing project for the poor, Outhwaite Homes. A good student, Stokes dropped out of high school, worked briefly at Thompson Products (renamed TRW), then joined the U.S. Army at age 18. After his discharge in 1946, Stokes returned to Cleveland and earned his high school diploma.

He attended several colleges before earning his Bachelor's degree from the University of Minnesota in 1954. He graduated from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law in 1956 and was admitted to the Ohio bar in 1957. While studying law, he was a Probation Officer. For four years, he served Assistant Prosecutor and became partner in the law firm of Stokes, Stokes, continuing that practice well into his political career. The law firm became successful after one year.

In 1962, he was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives and served three terms. Doing his time in the House, he worked hard to make the legislative districts more even. At the time, Ohio had uneven representation among its Congressional and General Assembly districts. By the late 1960s, he found a district that could elect him to Congress. Instead of running, he deferred to his brother, Louis Stokes, who ran, won, and for three decades represented Cleveland in the US House of Representatives. In 1965, Carl ran for Mayor of Cleveland but lost the bid. He ran again two years later and his victory drew national attention, as he was the first black Mayor of one of the ten biggest cities in the United States.

Stokes defeated Seth Taft, the grandson of former President William Howard Taft, beating him by a 50% margin. Cleveland was a majority white city having a 37% black population. Most of his support came from businessmen living outside the city limits. He received great support for two lawyers, Ralph Besse and Elmer Lindseth, directors and officers of the Cleveland Electric Illuminating Company who wanted Stokes to rein in the City's Municipal Electric and Light Plant. Unfortunately,


ly, Stokes's efforts were thwarted by a city councilman whose wards took advantage of a cheaper product.

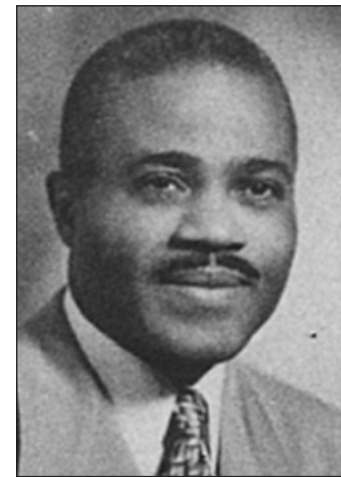
As Mayor, Stokes Opened up city hall jobs And Contracts to blacks and women. He was a strong administrator, and is known for his vision and motivation. Although he feuded With the City Council and the Police Department for most of his tenure, He was able to also initiate "Cleveland: Now!", a public and private funding program aimed at the revitalization of Cleveland neighborhoods. The campaign was enough to reelected him in 1969.

After serving as Mayor, Stokes lectured to colleges and universities around the country. In 1970, the National League of Cities voted him its first black President-Elect. In 1972, he became the first black anchorman in New York City when he took a job with television station WNBC-TV. While at WNBC New York, Stokes won a New York State Regional Emmy for excellence in his craft, for airing a segment about the opening of the Paul Robeson play on Broadway, starring James Earl Jones. After not being able to secure a national position on NBC in 1980, he returned to Cleveland and began serving as general legal counsel for the United Auto Workers.

From 1983 to 1994, he served as municipal Judge in Cleveland. He was appointed U.S. Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles by President Bill Clinton. While serving as Ambassador to the Seychelles. Stokes was diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus and placed on medical leave. He returned to Cleveland and died at the Cleveland Clinic. His funeral was held at Cleveland Music Hall, presided over by the Rev. Otis Moss. and was carried on WERE radio. Stokes was buried at Lake View Cemetery in Cleveland Heights, Ohio

Stokes has been awarded twelve honorary degrees, numerous civic awards, and represented the United States on numerous goodwill trips abroad by request of the White House. The U.S. Federal Courthouse Tower in downtown Cleveland, completed in 2002, was named the Carl B. Stokes Federal Court House Building. There are many other buildings, monuments and a street named for his memory within the City of Cleveland including the CMHA Carl Stokes Center, Stokes Boulevard, and the Carl Stokes Brigade Club. Every year at Lakeview Cemetery, members of the Brigade celebrate his birthday with a commemorative gravesite services.

In November 2006, the Western Reserve Historical Society opened an exhibit entitled, "Carl and Louis Stokes: from Projects to Politics", which focused on the brothers' early life at the Outhwaite projects, their service in World War II, and their eventual rise to politics. The exhibit ran through September of 2008. 



## CHARLES MOOREHEAD STOKES

...was born on February 1, 1902 in Fredonia, Kansas but raised in Pratt, Kansas to Myrtle Garner Stokes and Reverend Norris Jefferson Stokes. He received his undergraduate degree and from the University

of Kansas. He received his law degree from the University's law school in 1931.

For the next several years, Stokes practiced law in Leavenworth, Kansas litigating a wide variety of cases. He then took a job as an Assistant Attorney working for the Kansas State Revenue Commission in Topeka, Kansas before deciding to leave Kansas to move to Seattle, Washington. In 1943, he began to practice law. He became successful in his law practice, as there were very few African American attorneys in Seattle at that time.

Stokes became involved in the civil rights issues of Seattle and joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). As a lobbyist, he assisted in enacting several laws that significantly impacted citizens in the state of Washington. He became an Executive member of the Washington State Committee Against Discrimination in Employment, which was instrumental in the passage of the 1949 Washington State Fair Employment Practices Act.

In 1950, Stokes, as a Republican, was elected to a seat in the Washington State House of Representatives representing the state's 37th legislative district. He became the first African-American to represent King County and the second African American in state history to occupy a seat in the House. Stokes did well while serving, so much so that by the end of his first term, he was selected the "Outstanding Freshman Legislator" by the Young Republican Club. He later became the first African American Vice President of the Young Republican National Federation. He also co-sponsored the Civil Rights Omnibus Bill, which placed Washington in the national forefront of civil rights legislation in the country.

In 1952, Stokes was re-elected to his seat in the House. That year, he joined the campaign of Presidential candidate Dwight Eisenhower serving as a Delegate to

the Republican National Convention. At the Convention, Stokes was selected to deliver a speech from the platform.

In 1954, Stokes made a run for a seat in the Washington State Senate. He was unsuccessful in his bid but two years later, he recaptured his House seat and returned to the Washington House of Representatives. He served for two more years before being defeated in the 1958 election by Democrat Sam Smith.

In 1960, Stokes opted to run for the Lieutenant Governor of Washington job. He was again unsuccessful in his bid. He then became the head of the presidential nomination campaign of Republican Nelson Rockefeller.

Stokes left politics to co-found radio station KZAM-AM and Liberty Bank. In 1968, the bank was absorbed by Emerald City Bank, which in turn was taken over by Key-Bank. That same year, Stokes was appointed as a District Court Judge to fill a vacancy. Judge Stokes remained with the Court until his retirement in 1978.

In 1962, Stokes joined with fellow attorneys Charles V. Johnson and William 'Fred' Lockhart to form one of the first African American law firms in Seattle. From the law firm, two of the partners would go on to become King County Judges and Stokes became one of those judges in 1968. He became the first African American to be appointed to the King County District Court.

During that same year, Stokes assisted in the founding of the Loren Miller Bar Club. He remained a member of the Court for ten years retiring from the bench in 1978. Charles Moorehead Stokes died of cancer in 1996. He was ninety-three years old. In his honor, the Seattle Freeway Park named a section of the I-90 freeway in Stokes' honor, the Judge Charles M. Stokes Overlook. In addition, his daughter, Stephanie Stokes Oliver, the former Editor of Essence Magazine, wrote a biography of her father, "Song for My Father: Memoir of an All-American Family".



## LOUIS STOKES

...was born on February 23, 1925, in Cleveland, Ohio, to Charles and Louise Cinthy (Stone) Stokes. Louis and his brother Carl B. Stokes lived in one of the first federally funded housing projects, the Outhwaite Homes. Carl attended Central High School. Stokes served in the U.S. Army from 1943-46. After attending Western Reserve University and Cleveland-Marshall College of Law on the G.I. Bill.

Stokes began practicing law in Cleveland in 1953. He argued the “stop and frisk” case of *Terry v. Ohio* before the United States Supreme Court in 1968 before being elected to the House, representing the 21st District of Ohio on Cleveland’s East Side. Following the 1992 redistricting, he shifted to the newly created 11th District, covering much of the same area. Stokes served thirty years in The House of Representatives, retiring in 1999.

Stokes’ tenure in the House of Representatives included service on the House Appropriations Committee, where he was influential in bringing revenue to Cleveland. His interest lay particularly in veterans’ issues as he secured funds for health-care facilities for veterans in Cleveland.

In the 1970s, Stokes served as Chairman of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, with his charges being investigating the murders of President John F. Kennedy and civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr.. He served on the House committee that investigated the Iran-Contra Affair. As Chairman of the House Ethics Committee, he oversaw the Committee’s investigation of the corruption scandal ABSCAM in 1979-80, which eventually led to convictions of one senator and six House members. Recalling Stokes diligence during those hearings, U.S. Attorney Steven Dettelbach said: *“We were in the midst of a huge ... corruption scandal, and public service was taking a public beating. But Lou Stokes was a there as a shining beacon of integrity, of excellence and most important of all for us, of justice.”*

In 1992, Stokes ran for President as Ohio’s favorite son, winning the Delegates from his home district in Ohio. Seeing defeat in the wings, at the Democratic con-

vention, he refused to release his Delegate’s votes until the Clinton campaign formally asked for them. In 2012, Stokes retired as Senior Counsel in the law firm of Squire, Sanders & Dempsey, with offices in Cleveland and Washington.

From 2006-08, the Western Reserve Historical Society opened an exhibition on the lives of Congressman Stokes and his brother titled *“Carl and Louis Stokes: From the Projects to Politics”*. The exhibit uses photographs, manuscript collections, and personal items to showcase Louis Stokes’ rise from the Outhwaite housing projects, his legal career, and his Congressional service. The Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority opened the Louis Stokes Museum on September 13, 2007. This Museum houses Stokes memorabilia, video interviews, video footage, awards and a written history about him and his rise to prominence.

The former Congressman was inducted into the Karamu House Hall of Fame in 2007 for his contributions to the continued legacy of Cleveland’s black settlement house and theatre. Many buildings throughout the country have been named in Stokes honor including Howard University’s medical library, the Cleveland Public Library’s main building expansion, and the GCRTA’s Windermere station, aptly named the Louis Stokes Station at Windermere. The greater Cleveland area Veteran’s hospital was renamed the Louis Stokes Cleveland Department of Veteran Affairs Medical Center on the campus of the National Institutes of Health is named the Louis Stokes Laboratories.

On July 20, 2015, it was reported that Stokes had both brain cancer and lung cancer. He died on August 18, 2015 at his home in Cleveland from the diseases at the age of ninety. He was a Prince Hall Freemason, and a member of the Cleveland Alumni chapter of Kappa Alpha Psi fraternity.



## JUANITA KIDD STOUT

...was born on March 7, 1919 in Wewoka, Oklahoma to Mary and Henry Kidd. Both of his parents were schoolteachers but received less pay than their white counterparts

due to teaching in segregated schools. Stout learned to reach at the age of three and at six years old, he was enrolled into his elementary school’s third grade. At sixteen, Stout was enrolling into college.

Stout began her collegiate career at Lincoln University in Jefferson City, Missouri and completed her Bachelor of Arts degree at the University of Iowa in Iowa City, Iowa majoring in Music. While in college, she became a member of the Delta Sigma Theta sorority. Upon completion of her undergraduate studies, she returned to Oklahoma and accepted a job as a music teacher.

With the breakout of World War II, Stout traveled with a group of other young women to work in Washington, D.C. where she served as a legal dictator for famed attorney William H. Hastie and began her law studies. She then moved to Bloomington, Indiana to attend Indiana University’s Law School. Her husband, Charles Otis Stout was attending the university to obtain a Doctorate degree. Stout would receive her LL.M. degree from Indiana’s law school as well in 1954.

In 1950, Stout and her husband moved to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania after she received an invitation to work for attorney Hastie, who she had worked for several years previously and had been appointed to the Court of Appeals. Stout worked for Hastie for four years before opening her own law firm in 1954. She later joined the District of Columbia’s District Attorney’s office where she built a reputation for successfully prosecuting criminal cases.

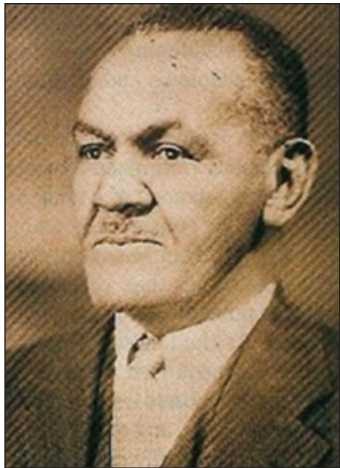
In 1959, Stout was appointed by then Pennsylvania Governor David L. Lawrence as a Judge to the Municipal Court in Philadelphia. She became the first African-American woman in the state to serve as a judge in the state of Pennsylvania. She was elected to a full ten-year term in the next election becoming the first African American woman to be elected to the state post.

Stout was later elevated to the Court of Common Pleas where she presided over homicide cases. In 1988,

she was appointed to the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania serving as the first African-American woman in the United States to serve on the Supreme Court of any state in the United States. Later that year, Stout’s husband, Charles, died. She would serve for only one more year on the bench before she reached the mandatory retirement age of seventy years old.

For her legal accomplishments, Stout was inducted into the Oklahoma Women’s Hall of Fame. The Philadelphia, Pennsylvania City Courthouse was renamed in her honor, the Justice Juanita Kidd Stout Center for Criminal Justice and the National Association of Women Judges presented her with its’ Justice of the Year Award. Stout was presented with the Sandra Day O’Connor Award by the Philadelphia Bar Association and given a Legend of the Bar Award by the Philadelphia Bar Association.

Judge Juanita Kidd Stout died in Philadelphia in 1998. She was seventy-nine years old.



## JOHN THE BAPTIST J.B. STRADFORD

...was born in 1861 a slave in Versailles, Kentucky. He received his undergraduate degree from Oberlin College in Oberlin, Ohio. He obtained his law degree from the Indiana Law School in Bloomington, Indiana.

He married his wife, Augusta, and the two would live in several cities where he practiced law, including Lawrenceburg, Ken-

tucky before settling in Tulsa, Oklahoma in 1899 after the discovery of oil and the Indian Territory moved toward statehood. Stradford would become the richest African American in Tulsa and owned a rooming house, rental properties, and the largest African American-owned hotel in the United States. He advocated equal treatment and racial solidarity for African Americans and strove to improve the economic lives of the community in which he lived.

After Oklahoma became a state in 1906 and the oil boom was in its stride, Stradford became a pivotal force in the development of the Greenwood section of Tulsa. The Greenwood neighborhood would become the richest neighborhood for African Americans in the United States and became known as "Black Wall Street". The three major intersecting streets of Greenwood, Archer, and Pine would years later become the acronym for the world famous R&B musical band, The Gap Band featuring Charlie Wilson.

In 1916, Stradford brought protests to the Tulsa City Commission for its segregation ordinances that he claimed casted a stigma upon African Americans in the eyes of the world and sapped the spirit of hope for justice before the law from the race itself. He acknowledged that the upside of segregation and Tulsa's black community was that the "white" dollars earned by black Tulsans stayed in Greenwood's Black Wall Street bringing riches to black merchants. Tulsa's white business and civic leaders were not happy with Stradford's rhetoric.

In his attempts to keep Black Wall Street prosperous, Stradford and Tulsa newspaperman, A.J. Smitherman invited W.E.B. Du Bois, the first African American to receive a Ph.D. from Harvard University to speak in Tulsa in March of 1921. Du Bois told the gathered crowd that the hatred in the white man's heart was still strong and the only way to fight hate was with hate. He urged the crowd that when the lynching mobs came to take defense and arm themselves stating that the black community in Tulsa and across the nation had suffered enough.

In 1918, Stradford used his clout to aggressively litigate cases for black social justice. He defended clients that suffered from the Jim Crow laws that had made their way into Oklahoma since the Indian Territory was made a state in 1906. He stopped a lynch mob from hanging a black man in Bristow, Oklahoma and once almost killed a white man beating him severely for making a racist remark about Stradford's skin color while walking down the street in Black Wall Street. Other African American men who witnessed the beating had to pull Stradford off of the white man telling him not to kill him less he himself would be hanged for killing a white man.

Stradford was not one to suffer indignities from anyone. Once, while riding an interstate train, as the train crossed over into Oklahoma territory, he was asked to move from the luxury train car that he had paid to ride in to the back of the train where blacks were made to ride

due to the Jim Crow laws established in Oklahoma after statehood. Refusing to move from his seat, he was forcibly removed by the conductor and other passengers. He ultimately sued the Midland Valley Railroad for false imprisonment, however, the courts ruled against his claims, which angered many in the black community.

Stradford then decided to build a swank hotel to rival those that existed in white downtown Tulsa. Having amassed a great deal of money, he set out to build the famous, "Stradford Hotel. The three-story pressed brick and stone slab building cost him a hefty \$50,000 and was designated to serve black guests only. Unfortunately, he became cash strapped and needed to borrow money to complete the hotels construction. The hotel opened for business on June 1, 1918 and was one of the largest black-owned hotels in the country and became a centerpiece of Black Wall Street.

By 1921, Greenwood had become the political and economic center of black success in the country with the Black Wall Street having a robust and profitable amount of black businesses, including hotels, restaurants, private business, butchers, doctors, and even had its own movie theater. The area would soon become involved in a race riot that would destroy the area and see it burnt and bombed. Many African American residents were killed in the rioting by white Tulsans in response to a story of an African American youth assaulting a white woman.

On May 30, 1921, Dick Rowland allegedly attempted to rape a seventeen-year-old white girl, Sarah Page, an elevator operator in a Tulsa hotel. He was arrested claiming his innocence stating that the elevator had merely jolted and he fell into the white woman operator. After his arrest, word began to circulate in the black neighborhood that a white vigilante mob had descended upon the Tulsa jail with threats of removing Rowland to have him hung. African American's armed themselves and went to the jail at the County Courthouse to protect Rowland. A scuffle ensued and gunfire erupted, which set off the infamous Tulsa Race Riot of 1921.

White vigilantes, with the support of the Klu Klux Klan and the Oklahoma National Guard, arrested everyone in the black neighborhood, killing hundreds, and burnt the thirty-five blocks of Black Wall Street to the ground after looting the businesses, including the Stradford Hotel. The Tulsa Race Riot was one of the most deadly riots in U.S. history. Stradford and other African American men were arrested and charged with igniting the riot. After making bail and under the threat of being killed, he jumped bail and fled to Chicago, Illinois. In Chicago, Stradford filed a lawsuit against the American Central Insurance Company in an attempt to recover some of his real estate losses from the Tulsa riot. He was not able to obtain a settlement as his insurance clause for damages caused by a riot knocked out any financial payments to Stradford. He lost all of his Tulsa investments. He would, however, go on to build some success by opening a candy store, a barbershop and a small pool hall in Chicago.

Seventy-five years after the infamous Tulsa Race Riot and after Stradford's relatives lobbied to clear his name, in 1996, City of Tulsa District Attorney Bill LaFortune made a motion to the Tulsa courts to vacate the charges against Stradford. Tulsa Judge Jessie Harris accepted the motion and a special ceremony was held to exonerate Stradford and restore honor to his name and to his contributions to the building of Black Wall Street. His descendants traveled from across the country, returning to Tulsa for the first time since 1921 to witness the ceremonial honor. John the Baptist Stradford was the first person indicted for the riot and was the last alleged outlaw exonerated. In essence, he was the first charged and the last freed.

John the Baptist Stradford died in 1935. He was seventy-four years old.



## JOHN H. STROGER, JR.

was born May 19, 1929 in Helena, Arkansas. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Xavier University in New Orleans, Louisiana in 1953. After graduation, he

relocated to Chicago, Illinois where he became active in the Democratic Party of the South Side of Chicago.

A year after arriving in Chicago, Stroger was appointed as an Assistant Auditor with the Municipal Court of Chicago. He then became the Personnel Director for the Cook County Jail serving for six years. He then enrolled into Chicago's DePaul University College of Law graduating in 1965 with his Juris Doctorate degree. While studying for his law degree, Stroger worked as a Financial Director for the State of Illinois.

In 1968, Stroger ran for a seat as a Committeeman representing Chicago's Eight Ward. Two years later, he was elected to the Cook County Board of Commissioners. While serving on the Board, Stroger would go on to chair every major committee the Board convened. He chaired the Finance Committee, the Health Committee, and the Building and Zoning Committee. He introduced new legislation to help minority and women owned businesses receive their fair share of contracts.

In 1994, Stroger was elected as the President of the Board of Commissioners. He would be elected as President in the next three elections. As Board President, Stroger set about to balance Cook County's \$2.9 billion budget. He instituted a Juvenile Drug Court to deal with the city's growing drug problem amongst Chicago's youth and created a Commission on Women's Issues to help women with domestic violence and other issues faced by Chicago's women residents. Stroger opened AIDS clinics and treatment facilities to combat the growing AIDS epidemic amongst Chicago's gay and drug addicted citizens.

Despite the advancements made under Stroger leadership, he came under increased fire in the later years of his presidency. His critics called his presidency one of scandal and patronage and his administration was designed to favor his supporters. His supporters, on the other hand, counterclaimed that he had dedicated his public career to providing quality and affordable health care

for the poorer residents of Cook County and was doing what was best for the people he served and not the power elite that controlled Chicago's base. While serving on the Board of Commissioners, to show appreciation for the work performed on behalf of Chicago and Cook County citizens, the new Cook County Hospital was renamed the John H. Stroger, Jr. Cook County Hospital in Stroger's honor.

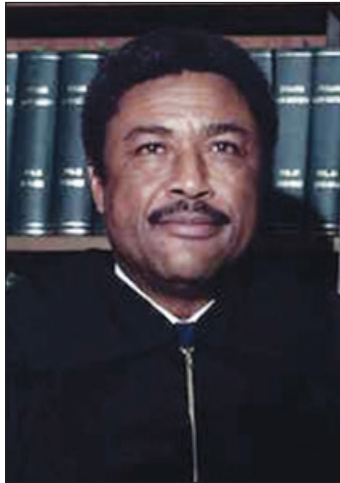
Stroger has served on the Board of Directors to the Chicago Metropolitan Healthcare Council and the Board of South Shore Hospital. He served as the President of the National Association of Counties and served as a member of the Advisory Committee On Intergovernmental Relations. He was appointed to the Advisory Committee by then President Bill Clinton. Stroger was a member of the St. Felicitas Catholic Church located on the South Side of Chicago. He was married to his wife, Yonnie, and together they had three children, Todd, Yonnie Lynn and Hans Eric.

In 2006, Stroger removed his name from the Democratic ticket for Cook County Board President replacing it with his son, Todd Stroger. Some called the move nepotism while others applauded the legacy move. Todd would go on to win the general election winning fifty-four percent of the vote.

The elder Stroger's health began to fail having been a diabetic and had battled prostate cancer. He had undergone a quadruple heart bypass and suffered a severe stroke that left him partially paralyzed. After suffering seizures, Stroger was hospitalized and was never seen in public again.

John H. Stroger, Jr. died on January 18, 2008. He was seventy-eight years old. Before his death, he was able to cast an absentee ballot for Chicago Senator Barack Obama for the Presidency of the United States although he died before Obama took office.





## JESSE NEALAND STONE, JR.

...was born on June 17, 1924 in Gibland of Bienville Parish, Louisiana. He received his law degree from Southern University's Law Center graduating in the first class the law school produced. After passing the bar exam,

Stone opened his law offices in Shreveport, Louisiana. In Shreveport, his law firm was the only African American law firm in the city.

After obtaining his law license, Stone became affiliated with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). He also worked with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). In affiliating himself with these civil rights organizations, Stone was able to work with Louisiana residents seeking relief from civil rights discrimination and racial discord. He also set his objective to desegregate the public schools of Louisiana.

As his legal reputation grew, Stone's prominence grew as well. He soon gained respect from then Governor John J. McKeithen who appointed Stone to a number of gubernatorial and legislative positions. He was soon chosen by McKeithen to become the Associate Director of the Louisiana Commission on Human Relations, Rights and Responsibilities. He later was appointed by McKeithen to be the Assistant State Superintendent of Education serving under then head of the Education Department, Bill Dodd. He was the first African-American to hold the position.

In 1971, Stone was chosen to become the Dean of his alma mater, Southern University Law Center. The following year, he was appointed as an Associate Justice of the Louisiana Supreme Court. He was the first African American to be named to the Supreme Court in Louisiana. In 1974, he left the Court to become the fourth President of the Southern University System. He would serve as the President of the University System for eleven years.

In 1985, Stone stepped down as the President. After leaving the Presidency, he became a professor of law at the Center. In addition to teaching, he became a member of the Southern Board of Supervisors, serving for four years.

He was the first inductee of the University's Hall of Fame and several years later an endowment was established in Stone's honor. The University also named a building on the school's campus after him, the Jesse N. Stone Lecture Hall. In addition, a commissioned judicial portrait of Stone was unveiled and installed at the Southern University Museum of Art in Shreveport.

After a long illness, Jesse Nealand Stone, Jr. died in his beloved Shreveport on May 14, 2001. He was seventy-seven years old.



## CRAIG STEPHEN STRONG

...was born on September 5, 1947 in Detroit, Michigan to Manila Geraldine Powers Strong and Erman Strong. As a young man, Strong played the saxophone with the group the Junior Flips, was a Boy Scout, and served as a

school patrol. He attended Sampson Elementary School and graduated from Cass Technical High School in 1965, where he excelled in the sciences.

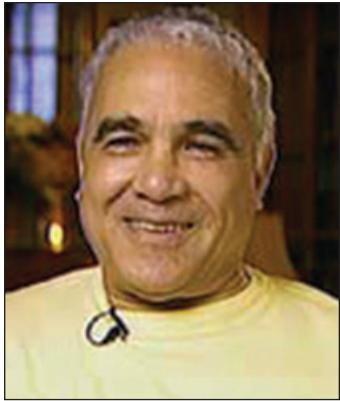
After graduating from Cass High, Strong enrolled into Washington, D.C.'s Howard University where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in 1969. After completing his undergraduate studies, he was drafted into the military where he served in the Navy's Judges Advocacy Corps. He was the only African American serving in his unit at the time.

Returning from the military, Strong returned to Detroit and entered the Detroit College of Law where he earned his Juris Doctorate degree in 1973. While earning his law degree, Strong worked for the Wayne County Legal Services for a period of time before taking a job with the Trade Union Leadership Council. After passing the Michigan State Bar exam, Strong then became an officer of the Wolverine Bar Association and eventually the President of the association. He was the youngest to serve as President at age twenty-nine.

Strong became active in Democratic Party politics and two years later was elected as a Judge the Detroit Records Court. He was later elected as a Judge to the 3rd District Michigan State Circuit Court. He was a founding member of the Association of Black Judges of Michigan and was named as the association's President.

In 1997, Strong, an avid collector of African art and African American memorabilia, helped to establish the Charles Wright African American History Museum located in Detroit. For his dedicated work in establishing the museum and in leading fundraising efforts, Strong was presented with the Outstanding Museum Service Award. As well as being an art lover, Judge Strong was a lover of fine clothing and the many photographs he took with national recognized celebrities stand as a testament to his sartorial taste.





**RUSSELL  
BERTRAM  
SUGARMAN, JR.**

...was born on May 11, 1929 to Lessye Hank Sugarmon and Russell Sugarmon. He is a native of Memphis, Tennessee and attended local schools in Memphis. He attended

the Co-Operative Gammar School and Booker T. Washington High School graduating at the age of fifteen. He then enrolled into Morehouse University in Atlanta, Georgia where he began his undergraduate studies. He transferred, after his freshman year, to Rutgers University in New Brunswick, New Jersey where he earned his Bachelor of Arts degree in 1950. He obtained his J.D. degree from Harvard University's Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts in 1953.

After completing law school, Sugarmon enlisted into the United States Army where he served for two years. He was stationed in Japan and received a Letter of Commendation for his service there. After being discharged from the Army, Sugarmon returned to the states and performed graduate work in Finance at Boston University in Boston, Massachusetts before deciding to enter private practice back in his hometown of Memphis.

Sugarmon practiced law for three years in Memphis before deciding to run for the job of Public Works Commissioner. The racially charged race drew sharp lines in the political sand as he was the first African American to become a serious candidate for a major city office in Memphis and white opposition was massive. Outgoing commissioner, Henry Loeb, took an active participating role in the campaign and convinced other white candidates to withdraw from the election to keep the votes from being split amongst them, as Sugarmon was the only African American running in the race.

The white voters of Memphis united behind his opponent, Bill Ferris, the only white man remaining on the ballot by election time. Sugarmon lost his bid for the Commissioners job and Ferris assumed the position. Although he lost the race, the experience was a valuable lesson for him and other potential African Americans hoping to run for elected office and paved the way for them to become victorious in the future despite the extreme racism they may face.

Sugarmon joined with several other lawyers to form the law firm of Ratner, Sugarmon, Lucas, Willis and Cald-

well. He served as the founding partner of the firm. Several years later, Sugarmon was elected to the Tennessee Democratic Party's Executive Committee. Two years after that, he decided to re-enter the political arena and made a run for the Tennessee State Senate. He was successful in that attempt and took a seat in the state capitol.

In 1967, Sugarmon became a Referee to the Memphis Juvenile Court. He would serve the Court for the next eleven years and stepped down from the Juvenile Court bench to sit on the bench of the General Sessions. He was re-elected to the bench in the 1990 and the 1998 general elections.

That same year, Sugarmon was elected to the Tennessee House of Representatives running as a Democrat. He represented the 11th District from 1967 to 1969. During that time, Judge Sugarmon had built a fine reputation as an elder statesman and was well liked by black and white litigants alike, his judicial peers, and the political establishment of Memphis. He was very active in the civic and political community groups in Memphis. He was a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the American Civil Liberties Union. Both groups would give him honors and accolades for the dedicated work he performed on behalf of Memphis residents.

Judge Sugarmon was married twice. With his first wife, Miriam, he had four children and with his second wife, Regina, he had two stepchildren. One of his sons, Tarik, became a Memphis City Court Judge.



**QUENTIN  
T.  
SUMNER**

...graduated received his law degree from North Carolina Central University (NCCU) Law School in Durham, North Carolina. He followed future law partners Milton "Toby" Fitch, Jr., and

G.K. Butterfield who he would become partners with after they all passed the North Carolina Bar exam. Sumner took the test along with Fitch and Butterfield who had previously taken the test and failed. Sumner, Fitch and Butterfield all took the test together and Sumner passed the test on his first attempt.

After he passed the bar exam test, Sumner wanted to open a law office in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. He was introduced to a prominent white lawyer in Rocky Mount who invited him to have lunch to discuss his legal future. The two met at the Rocky Mount Carlton House where Sumner was kindly told that because he was African American and had attended an African American law school, that there was no place for him at his law firm.

After the lunch, Sumner returned to his car, hurt and angry. He prayed over what had just taken place in order to keep his composure. Rehashing the lunch encounter, he wished that at the minimum, the white lawyer would have told him that he could not be hired because he lacked legal experience or maybe to return later to apply after he had gained the necessary experience to work at such a high profile law firm. Instead, all he received from the lunch was that he could not be a member of the law firm because he was black and the law education he had received from NCCU was inferior.

Sumner prayed for guidance and strength for his future in the legal profession. He prayed for determination to continue his desire to become a practicing attorney and for the strength to carry on and prove to that white attorney that he was capable of becoming a qualified and tested attorney. His prayers were answered shortly thereafter when he received a telephone call from his law school friend Butterfield who asked him to meet him and Finch for lunch to discuss his future law plans.

The three met where Sumner learned of their plans to open a law firm and felt that he would be a great partner to join them. They decided to open the firm in Raleigh, North Carolina, as there were no African American law firms in eastern North Carolina. The knew that if they opened the firm there, they could become the largest African American law firm there due to the fact that there were none in existence. Even though there would be only the three of them, three would be the largest. They scrapped together \$500 each and used the \$1,500 for a lease and operating capital and made the bold move to open



their law firm choosing Wilson, North Carolina as the place to hand their shingles. They were fortunate to lease their 800 square foot office from Butterfield's father who was a dentist. They used a part of the office for legal while Butterfield's father used the other part for dentistry.

In 1975, the three young lawyers opened their offices at 615 N. Nash Street in Wilson. The three attorneys would go on to become leading African American attorneys that would change the legal landscape of eastern North Carolina. They defied all odds after being told that black attorneys could not make it in the segregated industry and built a successful practice focusing on issues surrounding civil rights and desegregation. Two of the three young lawyers would become Judges, Sumner and Fitch, while Butterfield would become a North Carolina Supreme Court Justice and a member of the United States House of Representatives.

Through word of mouth advertising, the law firm grew quickly. They were able to meet their monthly bills and never missed paying those bills. Although they all lived in the homes of their parents to keep costs down, they never missed a payroll. In their humble beginnings, they shared a desk. While one was away from the office in court, the other used the desk. They then were able to obtain a loan to expand the offices as they grew. The firm would grow to have offices in the North Carolina cities of Greenville, Rocky Mount, Raleigh and Tarboro.

In one of the beginning cases that Sumner and his fellow attorneys took on involved the killing of a young African American boy by a white woman. Usually when a white killed a black, prosecutors would refuse to prosecute. This case was different and Sumner's firm was hired to do investigative work for the case and tensions were high on both sides.

In the case, Harry Lee Dickens, the African American youth was in his yard and a white newspaper boy, Mark Dupree came by. Loud heated words were exchanged and upon hearing the commotion, Dupree's mother arrives carrying a gun. A struggle ensued over the gun and Dupree was shot and killed. The mother was tried in the case for murder. Her defense team plead that there was a struggle over the gun but the gun fell to the ground discharging and killing Dupree.

It was later discovered that the mother indeed had brought the gun to the scene of the crime. The struggle over the gun was between the two boys. The mother decided to take the charge feeling that her chances of being acquitted were greater than that of her son. She was found not guilty.

Sumner's law firm would go on to try other important civil rights cases in North Carolina. The law firm went on to hire other African American lawyers that could not obtain employment with the high profile white law firms in the area and Sumner, Fitch, and Butterfield were happy to bring them into their fold. In 2003, the law offices of the three pioneers closed. The building they began in stands empty today but their legacy will live forever at 615 N. Nash Street in Wilson, North Carolina.



## PERCY SUTTON

...was born on November 24, 1920 in San Antonio, Texas to Samuel and Lillian Sutton, both school teachers. The youngest of fifteen children, Percy's father, an early civil-rights activist, was one of the

first blacks to come to Bexar County, Texas. He went by the initials "S.J." Instead of "Sam" fearing a white man might shorten it to Sambo. Although his father was a full-time educator, S.J. farmed, sold real estate, owned a mattress factory, funeral home and a skating rink.

At twelve years old, Percy stowed away on a passenger train to New York City. Fortunately for Percy, his oldest sister, Lillian, who was twenty years his senior, was attending Columbia Teacher's College and his oldest brother John, a food scientist who had studied under George Washington Carver were both living in New York at the time. His family had resources during a time when many African-Americans had limited options.

His family had long been committed to civil rights and Percy, like others in his family, frowned upon prejudice and racism. At age thirteen, while passing out leaflets in an all-white neighborhood for the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), he was beaten by a policeman. That beating put Percy on the path toward civil rights involvement.

In 1936, he joined the Boy Scouts of America earning the rank of Eagle Scout. As an adult, he would be recognized and given the Distinguished Eagle Scout Award. He has said that joining the Boy Scouts was an act that helped shape his life.

In 1942, Sutton joined the military and became an intelligence officer and a skilled World War II pilot, serving as a member of the Tuskegee Airmen earning several combat medals in the Italian and Mediterranean battles. Having military aircraft training, he later took up stunt-flying on the "barnstorming" circuit, but after a friend crashed, he thought more about the sport, gave it up and married his wife, Leatrice in 1943.

For the next several years, Sutton focused on his studies. He attended Prairie View A&M University, Tuskegee Institute, and Hampton Institute. His academic treks also include both Columbia Law School and Brooklyn College Law School.

The Korean War break out caused Sutton to return to the military. In 1953, at the end of the conflict, he was given his honorable discharge at the end of the conflict, he returned to New York City and opened a law firm in the city's Harlem. For the next seven years, during the peak of the civil rights movement, Sutton became one of the most nationally recognized and respected civil rights attorney in the America.

Sutton began his leap into the political scene in the 1960s. He quickly rose to become a leader in the Harlem Clubhouse, a political group controlling Democratic politics in Harlem at the time. After joining, he formed a powerful alliance with several other black politicians including future New York City Mayor David Dinkins, Congressman Charles Rangel, and Basil Paterson, who eventually served as the first black Secretary of State for New York and whose son, David Paterson, became the state's first black Governor in 2008.

From 1964 to 1966, Sutton also served in the New York State Assembly. In 1967, he ran for Borough President of Manhattan and won that seat by a landslide receiving eighty percent of the vote. As Borough President, Sutton labored for the economic development of Harlem and saw tourism as one of those developments. To campaign for the Democratic nomination for Mayor of New York City in 1977, he left the Assembly. He entered a crowded field of Mayoral candidates which included Congressman Ed Koch, New York Secretary of State Mario Cuomo, incumbent Mayor Abraham Beame, former Congresswoman Bella Abzug, and Congressman Herman Badillo. Koch came out victorious taking the nomination and mayoral race.

In 1971, Sutton co-founded Inner City Broadcasting Corporation which in turn bought New York based AM radio station WLIB and the FM radio station WBLS. These acquisitions made him the first black radio station owner in New York City. Within a few years, WBLS had the largest listening audience of any radio station in the nation. That same year, Sutton purchased the Apollo Theater in Harlem, revitalizing it and producing the award winning *"It's Showtime at the Apollo"*. Sutton's media empire grew to include nineteen radio stations.

In 1987, Sutton was awarded the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Spingarn Medal. In 2007, the U.S. Congress passed legislation that named the post office on 125th Street in Harlem after Percy Sutton.

Percy Sutton died on December 26, 2009 in New York City.



## WALTER L. SUTTON, JR.

...was raised in Marshall, Texas and attended segregated schools during his early years. He graduated at the age of sixteen from high school before enrolling into the University of Denver in Denver, Colorado. He graduated

from the University majoring in Economics and served as the Student Body Vice President. He was the first African-American to serve the student body in that capacity.

After graduation, he found employment with the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan. At Ford, he was responsible for the logistics of shipping newly manufactured automobiles all over the country by rail. In Michigan, he was fortunate to have met a Judge from his hometown that suggested that he consider entering the field of law. Sutton decided to do so and studied law at nearby Detroit, Michigan's Wayne State University School of Law at night while working for Ford during the day. After his freshman year at Wayne State, his professors were so impressed with his studies that he was offered a full scholarship to the University of Michigan School of Law in Ann Arbor. He left his job at Ford to complete his law studies in Ann Arbor.

After completing his law studies in 1972, Sutton returned to work for Ford as a staff attorney. After two more years at Ford, he decided to return to his native Texas. He accepted a job with Lake Forest, Illinois based Tenneco Oil Company in their Texas location. He was the first African American to be hired in the legal department of the oil company.

Not long after beginning employment with Tenneco, Sutton was enticed to join Texas Instruments (TI) in Dallas, Texas. He again was the first African American to be hired to work in the company's legal department. Sutton soon discovered that there were only about a dozen black attorneys practicing in Dallas at the time. At TI, he focused on environmental law issues and over time became a pioneer in the field. He remained with TI until 1988, choosing to return to school to obtain a Ph.D. in Management Science at the University of Texas at Dallas (UTD).

In 1989, Sutton completed his Ph.D. studies at UTD. He was the first African-American to receive the

high scholastic degree from the University. He was subsequently hired by the law firm of Hughes & Luce who wanted to expand the firm's reach into the field of environmental law. Sutton also represented approximately twenty-five Texas corporations and other association clients as a lobbyist at the state capital in Austin, including famed Perot Systems.

In 1993, Sutton left the law firm to accept a position with the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). He again became a first, the first African-American to lead the Dallas office of the EPA's Regional Counsel. He remained with the EPA for five years.

In 1998, then President Bill Clinton appointed Sutton as the Associate Administrator for Policy for the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA). In 2000, he was appointed as the Deputy Federal Highway Administrator. As the Deputy, he was responsible for administering a \$60 billion budget and for the administration management of a national staff having more than 3,000 employees.

In 2001, Sutton left the GHA to become the Chief of Staff and Special Assistant to the President at the University of Texas at Dallas. In his position, he served as the University's Community Ombudsman handling issues surrounding diversity, equity, equal employment opportunity, and ethics. During that time, then Dallas Mayor Steve Bartlett selected Sutton to serve as the head of Dallas' Environmental Health Advisory Committee. Sutton was the first African-American to lead the Committee. He also served as the Chair of the Environmental Law Section for the Dallas Bar Association and served as the President of the J.L. Turner Legal Association. In addition, Sutton served as President of the National Bar Association.

After four years, Sutton left UTD moving to Bentonville, Arkansas to take a job with Wal-Mart Stores. At Wal-Mart's home office, Sutton managed the company's legal department's diversity and external funding budget. He coordinated the company's diversity events.

Sutton currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees for Wiley College in Marshall, Texas. He has over thirty years of experience in corporate law, government relations on diversity and inclusion for Fortune 100 companies. He has served on the Board level to the American Bar Association, the National Judicial College, and the Institute for the Advancement of the American Legal System.





**DENNIS  
C.  
SWEET, III**

...was born in 1955 in Jackson, Mississippi. He received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1977 from Tougaloo College in Tougaloo, Mississippi. He obtained his Juris Doctorate degree from Washington, D.C.'s George Washington University National Law Center in 1980.

In his first professional legal job, Sweet served on the teaching staff at the Harvard Law School in Cambridge, Massachusetts where he would teach Trial Advocacy for thirteen years. He also worked in the Public Defender General's Office in Washington, D.C.. He then took a job working for the Southern Poverty Law Center in Montgomery, Alabama.

In 1987, Sweet became a Delegate of the Fifth Circuit Judicial Conference. Five years later, he was elected as a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives as a Republican. When his time was up in the Mississippi House, Sweet opened his own law firm and became a partner in Sweet & Freese PLLC located in Jackson, Mississippi.

Over the next decade, Sweet would represent major corporations, government agencies and private individuals in a wide variety of civil and criminal litigations. His legal and trial expertise has been instrumental in winning major verdicts for his clients. He won a major products liability verdict against Ford Motor Company in the amount of \$145 million for a wrongful death of a man thrown from one of the company's vehicles, a Ford Ranger. Sweet won a \$23 million medical malpractice verdict for parents of a child born with brain damage and won a \$150 million verdict for five of his clients against American Home Products, a drug manufacturing company, whose Fen-Phen drug caused health problems the five plaintiffs health problems.

Sweet also won a wrongful death verdict for the family of a woman who was improperly diagnosed with cancer and died from an overdose of painkillers. Hospice Ministries, the defending company paid the family \$4.5 million for the death of the woman who died. In another case, Sweet brought suit against the Jackson Marriott Hotel and the City of Jackson for the shooting of an unarmed

man by an off-duty Jackson Police officer. That verdict resulted in the city and the hotel collectively paying \$23 million to Sweet's client.

In criminal cases, Sweet has successfully defended those accused of murder, elected officials accused of voter fraud, doctors accused of healthcare fraud, and businessmen accused of bank fraud. He successfully defended African American farmers that were accused of defrauding the United States Department of Agriculture. He has also successfully defended common citizens in litigations that have affected their personal lives.

In 1990, Sweet became an Adjunct Professor of Criminal Law at Mississippi College School of Law in Jackson, Mississippi and an Instructor at the National Criminal Defense College in Macon, Georgia. Sweet has served as a member of the District of Columbia Bar, the Alabama Bar, the Mississippi Bar, the Association Trial Lawyers Association, the Hinds County Bar Association, Magnolia County Bar Association, and the U.S. Supreme Court Bar. He has served as a member of the Mississippi Board of Bar Commissioners.

Sweet has been honored by many organizations during his legal career. He has received the top legal honor from the Mississippi Conference of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People and the R. Jess Brown Award from the Magnolia Bar Association. He has been recognized by and featured in Black Enterprise Magazine, Harper's Magazine, and Lawyer's Weekly USA. Sweet has also appeared on both Court TV and Dateline NBC.



**JACK  
EDWARD  
TANNER**

was born in 1919 in Tacoma, Washington. After graduating from Stadium High School as a star athlete, he joined the United States Army and served in World War II being stationed in the South Pacific in a

segregated unit. It was in the Army that he experienced his first dose of real discrimination.

After returning from the military, Tanner enrolled into the College of Puget Sound in Edmonds, Washington where he received his undergraduate degree. He then entered University of Washington Law School in Seattle, Washington where he obtained his law degree in 1955. He was the only African American at the law school at that time. While earning his law degree, Tanner worked as a longshoreman and had to keep that job after he received his law degree as no white law firm would hire him. With that, he opened his own law office in Tacoma.

In 1957, Tanner joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and became the Regional Director of the organization. He served as the Regional Director for eight years. He organized civil rights protests for the organization and eventually was named to the National Board.

In 1963, after the assassination of Mississippi civil rights leader, Medgar Evers, Tanner was called by then President John F. Kennedy to the White House in Washington, D.C. to speak on and advise the President on race relations in the United States. Tanner spoke not only of the race issues affecting African Americans, he spoke on the abuses of Native Americans in the Pacific Northwest and the federal governments refusal to honor treaties signed between the two parties. He was actively involved in helping to protect the fishing rights of Native Americans and had held protests in Olympia, Washington in that regard.

Back in Washington, Tanner became actively involved in the Washington State Democratic Party. He became the first African American to run for Governor of Washington when he entered the race in 1966. He gained national attention during the primary campaign but lost his bid for the Governorship. Despite losing, Tanner was able to forge relationships with Democratic Senator Warren Mag-

nuson and was selected to run the presidential campaign of Henry "Scoop" Jackson. Tanner was the first African American to run a presidential campaign in the United States. Jackson unfortunately lost the electoral race.

In 1977, Donald McGavick, Tanner's law partner, submitted his name as a candidate for a seat on the United States District Court. With the support of Senator Magnuson and Henry Jackson, he was appointed as a Judge to the federal court bench by then President Jimmy Carter. He became the first African American to be named to the District Court. He presided in both the Eastern and Western District Courts and had a caseload three times that of the other U.S. District Judges.

In 1980, Tanner drew criticism when he ruled that Washington's Walla Walla prison had violated the rights of inmates and the Eighth Amendment against cruel and unusual punishment. He drew praise in 1983 when he made a ruling, "comparable worth", that ensured equal pay for 15,000 Washington women state workers. The ruling drew national attention from women's rights groups that applauded Judge Tanner's decision on sex discrimination.

Judge Tanner's ruling was later overturned by the U.S. Court of Appeals of the 9th Circuit, which ruled that the existing wage gap between men and women state workers was not proof of discrimination. The state of Washington would later settle the issue by paying \$482 million in back pay to women for six years of underpayment. The payments were rolled into the state employees base pay, which gave them a higher income than comparable state workers in other states.

The equal women's pay reversal by the Court of Appeals was not Judge Tanner's only reversal. During his tenure on the bench, he had 146 reversals by the higher court. Many of those reversals were due to Judge Tanner's deviation from the standard sentencing guidelines. Other reversals were made because of the harsh sentences given in some cases. On the other hand, he had a reversal of a sentence where he sentenced a woman to one day for attempting to kill her husband after being abused.

Despite his high number of reversals, Judge Tanner was not concerned. Although some thought he was out of step in his decision making process, he had his own form of adjudicating what the judiciary should accomplish and what Judges ought to stand for. He took senior status in 1991 and remained on the District Court bench knowing that when he left, there was little chance of another African American taking his seat.

Judge Jack Tanner died in 2006 at his Tacoma, Washington home of cancer. He was eighty-six years old.





**RAYCHELLE  
A.  
TASHER**

...received her Bachelor of Science degree in 2009 from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) in Tallahassee, Florida in 2009 magna cum laude majoring in Political Science and Economics. While at FAMU, she served as her senior class President, as a member of the Order of Omega Greek Honor Society, as a member of the FAMU Economics Club and she also joined the Delta Sigma Theta Sorority.

In obtaining her law degree, Tasher remained at FAMU to attend its' College of Law and earned her Juris Doctorate degree in 2013. While in law school, she was a member of the Student Bar Association, the Black Law Black Law Students Association, the American Bar Association, and the FAMU Moot Court & Advocacy Board. She was also a member of the Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity.

Tasher founded the American Bar Association's (ABA) Law Student Division and became its' Vice President and Chair. She was the first African American to served as Vice President. She also joined the Ms JD program, a nonprofit and nonpartisan organization that promotes aspiring women in the legal careers. The program associates female law students with successful female mentors in the law profession and is sponsored in part by the ABA's Commission on Women in the Profession. Tasher was placed with Florida Supreme Court Justice Peggy A. Quince.

As her law studies neared ending, Tasher wanted to continue her leadership role and wanted to assist in helping young lawyers in their legal careers. She was introduced to the Young Lawyer's Division (YLD) and its' Emerging Leaders Program, which is a program designed to place law student division leaders on a fast track to their careers in law. Tasher was appointed to the YLD Membership Board and the Women in the Profession Committee. As a member of the Board, she pushed for opportunities and programs that were focused on women in law.

After graduating from law school, Tasher became the Judicial Law Clerk for Judge Lisa T. Munyon of the Ninth

Judicial Circuit. She continues to be involved with the YLD and serves as a member of the YLD Scholars Program. This program is designed to attract more minority firms, small law office firms, government attorneys, and private and military attorneys to participate in the Scholars Program as mentors to young lawyers. In her role with the Scholars Program, Tasher has been asked to travel across the country to engage with young leaders at YLD conferences and seminars.

In 2016, Tasher became the Chair of the YLD Bankruptcy Law Committee. She has been pivotal in attracting a long list of women of color to become involved in the YLD Scholar Program's Alumni Membership. She was able to clerk in St. Louis, Missouri for Chief Judge Kathy Surratt-States of the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Eastern District of Missouri. Still involved with the YLD Scholars Program where she works to bring awareness to both the student leaders as well as the distinguished alumni that have become a part of the program.



**ANNA  
DIGGS  
TAYLOR**

...was born on December 9, 1932 in Washington, D.C. to Hazel B. and V.D. Johnston. Born as Anna Katherine Johnston, both of her parents were educators. Her father would later become the Treasurer of Howard University. Johnston grew up surrounded by politics and civil rights issues as daily topics of discussion.

Johnston grew up surrounded by politics and civil rights issues as daily topics of discussion.

A gifted child, Johnston began her education in the public schools of Washington, D.C.. To further her education, her parents sent her to the Northfield School for Girls, a private high school in Massachusetts where she would graduate in 1950. As she did in D.C., in Massachusetts, she excelled in her studies.

For her undergraduate degree, Johnston attended Barnard College in New York City, New York graduating in 1954 after majoring in Economics. In 1957, she received her law degree from Yale Law School in New Haven, Connecticut. As in all of her academic studies, she excelled.

After graduation, it was not easy for Johnston to find a job in the field of law as racism and prejudiced stood in her way. Fortunately, J. Ernest Wilkins, who would later be known as "The Negro Genius", hired her to his staff at the Department of Labor in Washington, D.C.. At the Department she accepted the job of Assistant Solicitor.

In 1960, Johnston met Charles Diggs, a U.S. House of Representative representing Michigan. They wed and the couple moved to Detroit, Michigan to begin raising a family. They would remain married for eleven years.

In Detroit, Diggs accepted a job as Assistant County Prosecutor for Wayne County. She served as the Office Manager and Legislative Assistant to her husbands law firm, Zwerdling, Maurer, Diggs & Papp. In 1970, she became a partner. She became actively involved in the civil rights movement and in 1964 she spent the summer in Mississippi assisting the National Lawyers Guild in their efforts of desegregation and equal civil rights. For her work, she was highlighted on the cover of Jet Magazine, an African American news publication.

In 1975, Diggs became the Assistant Corporation Counsel for the City of Detroit. She would serve as Corporation Counsel for four years. The following year, she would become an Adjunct Professor at Wayne State University Law School in Detroit.

Unfortunately, the Diggs marriage suffered and they were divorced. In 1976, she married again, this time to S. Martin Taylor, a regent of the University of Michigan, in Ann Arbor. Three years later, then President Jimmy Carter appointed Taylor to the



United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan. She became the first African American woman to be appointed as Judge to the Court. In 1997, Judge Taylor was named as Chief Judge to the District Court. Judge Diggs Taylor replaced Damon Keith, the first African American named to the District Court. A year later, she gained Senior Status.

In 2006, Judge Diggs Taylor ruled, the first federal Judge to do so, on the constitutionality of the National Security Agency's (NSA) controversial warrantless surveillance. In the case of "ACLU v. NSA", the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) sued the NSA for alleged illegal wiretapping on American citizens. Judge Diggs Taylor ruled that the NSA's domestic wiretapping of U.S. citizens without court order violated the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act and was unconstitutional. He issued a permanent injunction to end the practice.

The ruling was stayed pending an appeal to the Appellate Court. While awaiting the Appellate Court's ruling, the nation buzzed with vigorous political chatter. Some legal minds criticized Judge Diggs Taylor for her ruling while others applauded her findings. She did not, however, rule on the alleged NSA call centers database citing state secrets as her reasoning.

The Judicial Watch, a conservative watchdog organization, called for a conflict of interest in Judge Diggs Taylor's ruling, claiming she is or was a Trustee and served as Secretary for the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan. The Judicial Watch indicated that the Foundation had made a \$45,000 grant to the ACLU of Michigan, the plaintiff in the case. Taylor ruled in favor of the ACLU, thus the appeal. The U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit overturned her ruling with the opinion that the plaintiffs lacked standing and vacated the parts of the ruling that were concerned with warrantless wiretaps.

Judge Diggs Taylor would go on to preside over several high-profile and politically charged cases including a billion dollar corporate take over case and one involving two unemployed autoworkers convicted in the beating death of a Chinese American. In another notable case, Judge Diggs Taylor ruled on the separation of religion and the state when she ruled on the removal of a religious nativity scene that was erected on city property. The scene had to be removed.

Judge Diggs Taylor is a member of several professional associations and organizations. She is a member of the Federal Bar Association, the Community Foundation for Southeastern Michigan, the Detroit Symphony Orchestra, the Michigan Cancer Foundation, the Sinai Hospital in Detroit, the State Bar Committee on the United States Courts, the State Bar of Michigan, the Wolverine Bar Association, the Women Judges Association, the Women Lawyers' Association, the Women's National Democratic Club, and the Yale Law Alumni Association.



## HOBART TAYLOR, JR.

...was born on December 17, 1920 in Texarkana, Texas to Charlotte (née Wallace) and Hobart T. Taylor, Sr.. His father was a millionaire having made his fortune in the insurance industry. He also owned a taxicab business

and was an investor into real estate. He was aligned with future President and Democrat Lyndon B. Johnson. The elder Taylor also was the financier of the famous lawsuit, “Grove v. Townsend”, in which the U.S. Supreme Court ruled the state of Texas’ all-white primaries as unconstitutional. The family moved from Texarkana to Houston, Texas where the younger Taylor graduated from Yates High School.

Taylor entered Prairie View Normal and Industrial College in Prairie View, Texas where he received his undergraduate degree majoring in Economics in 1939. He then attended Washington, D.C.’s Howard University where he earned a Master’s degree in Economics in 1941. He moved to Ann Arbor, Michigan to attend the University of Michigan Law School, where he received both his Juris Doctorate degree and his LL.B. degree in 1943. While at Michigan’s law school, Taylor served on the editing staff of the Michigan Law Review. He was the first African American law student to serve on the editing staff of the Law Review.

After leaving the University of Michigan, Taylor began working in the legal profession serving as a Research Clerk for then Chief Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court, Raymond Wesley Starr. After a year serving as Starr’s law clerk, Taylor entered private practice. After five years in private practice, he became an Assistant Attorney Prosecutor for Wayne County, Michigan. A year later, Taylor left to become the Corporation Counsel for Wayne County.

In 1958, Taylor left his employment with the county government returning to private practice. Three years later, he returned to work for Wayne County taking a job in the Civil Division of the District Attorney’s Office. He also litigated cases for several Texas corporations while serving in the DA’s Office. During that time, Taylor and his father became financial supporters of then Senator Lyndon B. Johnson’s presidential campaign.

In 1961, Taylor was named by then President John F. Kennedy as the Special Counsel to the President’s Committee on Equal Employment Opportunities (PCEEO). Taylor had served at the President’s staff that drafted the Executive Orders that created the Committee. The President had designated the top job at the Committee, the Executive Vice

Chairman, for Taylor but after pushback from white Texas conservatives not wanting a liberal African American to hold the post, Kennedy turned to John Field to fill the position. Despite not receiving the top job, Taylor is credited with initiating the term “affirmative action” while serving as Special Counsel to the Committee.

On September 10, 1962, Taylor was promoted to become the Executive Vice Chairman of the Committee. He was the first African American to lead a U.S. Presidential committee. After the assassination of President Kennedy and President Lyndon Johnson took control of the White House, Johnson appointed Taylor as the Associate Special Counsel to the President. With his appointment, he became one of the highest-ranking African Americans working for the U.S. government.

While Taylor served as Special Counsel to the President, he continued to serve as the Executive Vice Chairman of PCEEO. In his positions, he played a pivotal role in the implementation of the 1964 Civil Rights Act. Taylor resigned from his positions at the White House and PCEEO in 1965 after being appointed by President Johnson as the Director of the Export-Import Bank.

After three years at the Bank, in 1968, Taylor again returned to private practice. He accepted a position with the law firm of Dawson, Riddell, Taylor, Davis and Holroyd where he stayed for two years. He then became an attorney on the staff of Jones, Day, Reavis and Pogue.

While practicing as a private attorney, Taylor served on several Board of Directors, including serving on the Board of the Aetna Life and Casualty Company, the Burroughs Corporation, Eastern Air Lines, and The Great Atlantic. He also served on the Boards of the Pacific Tea Company, Standard Oil of Ohio, and the Urban National Corporation. In addition, Taylor served on the Board of Directors of the Westinghouse Electric Corporation.

In 1977, Taylor was appointed to the Commission on Postal Service and two years later, he was appointed to the Commission on Executive Exchange. He became a member of the Democratic National Committee and the Vice Chairman and Trustee of the Wolf Trap Foundation for the Performing Arts. He also became a Trustee of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Hobart Taylor, Jr. suffered for several years from amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, a nervous system disease. He died from the disease on April 2, 1981 while in the island of New Providence in The Bahamas. His body was transported back to the United States and was buried at the Emmanuel Episcopal Church Cemetery in Middleburg, Virginia.

Taylor was married to Lynette Dobbins of Birmingham, Alabama and together they had two children, Hobart III and Albert. The couple divorced in 1975. Taylor remarried, marrying Carol Angermeir in 1978. With his second marriage, he became the stepfather to her two children, Edward Rader and Teresa Warner.



## JAMES HAROLD TAYLOR

...was born on July 7, 1926. He was reared in Elkridge, Maryland, an unincorporated community in Howard County. His father died in an automobile accident when he was ten years old.

His mother was left to raise Taylor and his nine siblings. She did so by working as a salesperson at a Baltimore, Maryland department store.

To support the family while he attended Carver Vocational-Technical High School in Baltimore where he studied bricklaying and masonry, he worked as a mailman, a railroad oilman, and a short-order cook. After graduating high school, for his undergraduate degree, he enrolled into Howard University in Washington, D.C. Graduating in 1950, Taylor then completed his military duties by joining the U.S. Army Air Forces, serving his mandatory two years.

Returning from the Army, he set out to earn his law degree. Taylor completed his law school studies at American University graduating in 1953. He became the earliest known African American to graduate from the school. When he passed the Prince George’s County Maryland Bar Association exam, he became one of the first African Americans to be admitted to the County bar association.

After passing the Prince George’s County bar, Taylor took a job as a Citizenship Examiner with the U.S. Department of State Passport Offices. In 1956, he took, passed and was admitted to the Maryland Bar Association. Prince George’s County, at the time, was and had been dominated by white conservatives for many years. It would remain that way for many years to come.

Despite being a minority in the bar, Taylor rose through the ranks to a position of prominence. By 1963, he had gained enough political capital that he became an Assistant State’s Attorney. He became the states first African American to hold the position.

In 1969, then Democratic Governor Marvin Mandel appointed Taylor as a Judge to Maryland’s 7th Judicial Circuit. He would focus on family and juvenile cases. In ruling on those cases, some prosecutors thought he was too soft on crime.

During his tenure, many prosecutors felt that Taylor was too forgiving in his judicial rulings. His compassion for minors was especially noticed by all that came before him as he believed that everyone could be rehabilitated. In a 1977 case of drunken driving accident that resulted in a manslaughter charge from the death of a four-year old child and the injuring of five others, Taylor dispensed a lighter sentence than many thought should have been heavier. The sentence handed down many felt did not fit the crime, but nonetheless, Taylor stuck by his decision stating that he did what he thought was right. In 1980, he became a Judge on the Prince George’s County Circuit Court.

After eighteen years on the bench, in 1987, Taylor retired and returned to private practice. He also served as an independent consultant for the development of business development for minority businesses. As he had done on the bench, he took a softer approach to his cases, as he always would look back on his early childhood to understand the plights of many of his clients. Believing one was a product of their environment, he worked to improve the lives of those he came into contact with.

Taylor off the bench was a man that loved life and the County and communities he served. For the local community college, Prince George’s Community College, he served as a Trustee. He served on the Board of Nations-Bank, now Bank of America as well as several Maryland state legal associations. A lover of luxury cars, Taylor owned two Rolls-Royces, a sailboat and a small airplane. He loved challenges and life itself immensely.

Married twice, Taylor died peacefully on October 31, 2012 at his Upper Marlboro, Maryland home from congestive heart failure at the age of eighty-six. From his first marriage to the former Lillian Miles, he had two children. With his second wife, he had one son and a stepdaughter. In his honor, the school he gave so much time and care to, the Prince George’s Community College, named a paralegal endowment in his honor.





## ROBERT HERBERTON TERRELL

...was born on November 27, 1857 in Charlottesville, Virginia to Louisa Ann Terrell and Harris Terrell. The family moved to Washington, D.C. where Terrell attended public

schools before being sent to the Groton Academy in Groton, Massachusetts. He received his undergraduate degree in 1884 cum laude from Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts. He earned his law degree in 1889 from Washington, D.C.'s Howard University School of Law graduating as class Valedictorian.

In his first professional job, Terrell took a job as a teacher in the District's public schools. He took the job due to the fact that African American law graduates could not obtain employment with the established white law firms because of their discriminatory practices. In his second professional job, he worked as the Chief Clerk in the U.S. Treasury's Fourth Auditor's Office.

In 1892, Terrell opened his own law firm in Washington but to support his family, he returned to teaching and took another Principal's job at the Washington, D.C.'s M Street High School. He became involved in politics and as a Republican he aligned himself with the philosophy of Booker T. Washington. He also aligned himself and gave support to then Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit William Howard Taft who would later become the 27th President of the United States in 1909.

In 1896, Terrell joined John R. Lynch to create the law firm of Lynch and Terrell in Washington D.C.. Terrell would only work in the firm for two years, as he was appointed in 1898 by then President William McKinley as a Major and Paymaster of volunteers serving in the Spanish-American War. A year later, Terrell became the Principal of the Preparatory School for Colored Youth in Washington, D.C. where he met Mary Church, a teacher at the school. The two were married and together they had two daughters.

In 1901, Terrell was appointed to serve as a Justice of the Peace in Washington D.C.. He became the first African American Justice of the Peace to serve on the bench in Washington. He would serve on the bench for nine years.

In 1910, then President William Howard Taft appointed Terrell to serve as a Judge to the District of Columbia Municipal Court. His nomination ran into staunch opposition from Southern Democratic Senators but he was confirmed to the bench and took his seat on January 15, 1910. He became the first African American Judge in the nation's capital. He was re-appointed to the bench by Presidents Franklin D. Roosevelt and President Woodrow Wilson. Judge Terrell remained on the Municipal Court until 1925 when he died.

While serving on the Court, Terrell also served on the faculty of the Howard University's Law School. He also became a Charter member of the Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity (the Boule). The Boule is the first and oldest African American fraternity in Washington.

In 1921 Terrell suffered a stroke. A year later, he suffered another one that left him paralyzed on one side of his body. Terrell suffered from asthma and his health declined yet he still performed his duties on the bench.

Judge Robert Herberton Terrell died on December 20, 1925. He was sixty-eight years old. His obituary was printed in "The Crisis" magazine, the official publication of the magazine of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. Several years later, the Howard University Law School was closed. That same year, the Robert H. Terrell Law School was established in Judge Terrell's honor. Twenty-seven years later, in 1952, the District of Columbia opened a junior high school, the Robert H. Terrell Junior High School, in his honor. The school would be torn down in 2008 and replaced with the R.H. Terrell Recreation Center.



## DONALD M. TEMPLE

... received his Bachelor of Arts degree from Howard University in Washington, D.C. in 1975. In 1978, he earned his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Santa Clara in Santa Clara, Cali-

fornia. While at Santa Clara, Temple served as the Student Bar Association President. He was the first African-American elected to serve as the schools first President. Temple received his LL.M. degree from Washington, D.C.'s Georgetown University's Law Center in 1981 where he concentrated on International and Constitutional Law. He furthered his legal education by attending the Rene Cassin Human Rights Institute, in 1977, at the University of Strasburg in France.

In 1978, Temple took a job working for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Office of General Counsel for the Administrative Law Division. He duties centered on bid protests and debarments. Twelve years later, he decided to enter private practice law.

In 1990, Temple opened his own law practice, The Law Offices of Donald M. Temple, P.C. in downtown Washington, D.C.. He concentrated his practice on administrative hearings, appellate litigation, arbitrations, civil trials, and mediations. He was licensed to argue cases before courts in the District of Columbia courts, the Maryland state courts, and the federal courts.

For the past twenty-seven years, Temple has practiced law from his Washington, D.C. offices focusing on civil, commercial and appellate litigations. He handles cases involving civil fraud; construction related issues; and contracts and contract disputes. He also represents clients needing corporate governance; foreclosures assistance; real estate transactions; personal injury settlements and theft conversions. In addition, Temple represents clients needing reputational torts, workplace labor disputes, employment discrimination including Title VII and 42 USC Section 1981, human rights violations; police misconduct cases including Section 42 USC 1983, constitutional litigation involving equal protection and due process claims, and estate disputes and settlements.

Temple has successfully litigated cases against American Eagle, the City of Philadelphia, CVS, the District of Columbia Police Department, Eddie Bauer, and the Grand Hyatt Hotel. He has won cases against the Hunton and Williams Law Firm, the ICMA-RC Pension Fund, the

Invest Corporation, and the Washington Suburban Sanitation Commission. He has also been successful in cases brought against Montgomery County, Maryland; Prince George's County, Maryland; the District of Columbia Government; and the United States Government.

An advocate for the protection of civil rights, Temple has taken on a case involving a whistle blower and obtained a \$1.7 million jury verdict settlement in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia against the D.C. Office of the Chief Financial Officer. In another D.C. case, Temple won re-instatement for an African American female law professor at the University of the District of Columbia. In the case he won re-establishment of the professors tenure.

Temple represented Maryland mega church, Jericho Baptist in the U.S. District Court of Maryland involving a case of interplead funds and obtained a favorable summary judgment ruling for the church. He represented the African Hebrew Israelite community in a trademark infringement and conversion case heard before the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia.

In 1997, Temple is credited with coining the term "consumer racism" in a case where he obtained an unprecedented \$1 million dollar verdict against Eddie Bauer in the U.S. District Court for Maryland. He litigated a case of police misconduct, which helped to bring an end to police aggressively using dogs and their biting causing serious bodily harm. He has also successfully won appellate cases, which were lost in the lower courts.

Temple has served as the Chairman of the D.C. Civilian Complaint Review Board, has served as the Chairman of the Congress Heights Community and Economic Development Center, and has served as a candidate to represent Washington, D.C. as a Delegate seat to the United States Congress. He is the founder of the Charles Hamilton Houston Law School Preparatory Institute ("CHH"), which is a self-sufficient seven-week program that prepares future law students to enter law school. The CHH has held thirty-seven classes and has produced many lawyers, law partners, and Judges that are practicing or presiding in courts all across the country. Temple also is the founder of the D.C. Chapter Concerned Black Men and the Congressional Black Associates.

Temple has received countless honors and awards. A few of his commendations include the National Bar Association's Gertrude E. Rush Award and the Washington Bar Association's Ollie Mae Cooper Award. He has also been presented with the National Black Law Student Association's Cora T. Walker Award. In addition, Temple has been inducted into the District of Columbia Hall of Fame and the Washington Bar Association's Hall of Fame.





## CLARENCE THOMAS

...was born on June 23, 1948 in Pin Point, Georgia to Leola Williams and M.C. Thomas. His mother was a domestic worker and his father a farm worker. Descendants of African slaves, the family spoke Gullah as a first language. The Gullah/Geechee people lived in the low country regions of Georgia and South Carolina and practiced much of their

African linguistic and cultural heritage in their everyday lives.

Thomas' father left the family when he was two years old. Although his mother worked, she could not earn enough and the family had to resort to charity. At the age of seven, the family house burnt down leaving them homeless. Thomas and his younger brother Myers were sent to live with their maternal grandparents in Savannah, Georgia. There they enjoyed a better life including indoor plumbing and regular meals. His grandfather, a hard working man taught Thomas the importance of getting a good education, something he took to heart.

In high school, Thomas was the only black person in his class. He graduated as a honor student. Raised Roman Catholic, at the age of sixteen, he considered entering the priesthood, and became the first black student to attend St. John Vianney's Minor Seminary in Savannah. He also attended Conception Seminary College, a Roman Catholic seminary in Missouri, although briefly. He left after the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., feeling that the church did not do enough to combat racism.

Thomas enrolled into the College of the Holy Cross in Worcester, Massachusetts. There, he helped found the Black Student Union. Majoring in English, to polish his Gullah language slang, he vowed to "to conquer the language". He became a member of Alpha Sigma Nu and the Purple Key Society. He graduated from in 1971 with an A.B. cum laude in English literature.

After graduation, Thomas was classified 1-A in the the military draft but was medically exempted due to curvature of his spine. He then entered Yale Law School, where, in 1974, he received a Juris Doctor degree. Unfortunately, many law firms assumed he had obtained his degree because of affirmative action requirements doubting that he was as smart as his grades indicated.

On September 13, 1974, Thomas was admitted to the Missouri bar. He became an Assistant Attorney General of Missouri, the only black member on State Attorney General John Danforth's staff. In 1976, Danforth was elected to the U.S. Senate. Thomas left to join the Monsanto Chemical Company in St. Louis, Missouri. In 1979, he moved to Washington, D.C. to work for Senator Danforth as a Legislative Assistant.

In 1981, he became a part of the Reagan administration. He served as Assistant Secretary of Education for the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Education. He became Chairman of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission ("EEOC") from 1982 to 1990. President George H.W. Bush nominated Thomas, in October of 1989, to a seat on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit. Justice Thurgood Marshall, the lone black on the Court was retiring and Thomas was Bush's choice. Through an uneventful vetting process, he was confirmed to his seat by the United States Senate on March 6, 1990.

In the confirmation process during that era, U.S. presidents

would submit a list of potential nominees to the American Bar Association (ABA) for a confidential rating of their judicial temperament, competence, and integrity on a three-level scale of well qualified, qualified or unqualified. The ABA rated Thomas as qualified, but with one of the lowest levels of support for a Supreme Court nominee. The ABA rating had very little impact on Thomas' nomination.

The formal confirmation hearings began on September 10, 1991. Thomas was reluctant to answer the Senators' questions during the appointment process as he had some opposition to his nomination. Some of his early writings had referenced the legal theory of "natural law". Historically, natural law referred to the use of reason to analyze both social and personal human nature to deduce binding rules of moral behavior. Thomas limited his statements stating that he regarded natural law as a "philosophical background" to the Constitution. Some Senators were weary of Thomas' criticism of affirmative action and suspicions that he might not be a supporter of Roe v. Wade.

The confirmation hearings were almost concluded when reports began to appear concerning Thomas' "moral character" and behavior during his tenure at the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Word spread that the FBI had interviewed one of Thomas' co-workers, Anita Hill, a black attorney, who had worked for Thomas at the Department of Education about possible sexual harassment. Hill was called to testify. In her testimony, she stated that Thomas had continuously asked her out on dates and made comments of a sexual nature, which she felt believed as sexual harassment or at the minimum, "behavior that is unbecoming an individual who will be a member of the Court."

Thomas denied the allegations, saying: *"This is not an opportunity to talk about difficult matters privately or in a closed environment. This is a circus. It's a national disgrace. And from my standpoint, as a black American, it is a high-tech lynching for uppity blacks who in any way deign to think for themselves, to do for themselves, to have different ideas, and it is a message that unless you kowtow to an old order, this is what will happen to you. You will be lynched, destroyed, caricatured by a committee of the U.S. Senate rather than hung from a tree."*

During the confirmation process, Hill was the only person at the Senate hearings to testify about the unsolicited sexual advances. There were several other women available to testify with but were not called. One did submit a written statement indicating that Thomas had asked her out for a date, however, she did not feel his behavior was intimidating nor did she feel sexually harassed, although she add that some other women might have taken his actions differently. Another former assistant of Thomas' submitted written testimony indicating he had not harassed her but stated that, *"If you were young, black, female and reasonably attractive, you knew full well you were being inspected and auditioned as a female."*

Despite the accusations, Thomas was confirmed by a 52-48 vote on October 15, 1991 by the narrowest approval margin in more than a century. In the final Senate floor vote, 41 Republicans and 11 Democrats voted to confirm while 46 Democrats and 2 Republicans voted to reject the nomination. Thomas was sworn in by Byron White on October 15, 1991.

On the bench, Thomas has been described as one of the most conservative members of the Supreme Court. He has generally declined to engage in judicial lawmaking, instead viewing his constitutional role on the court as an interpreter of the law, rather than the maker of the law. From 1994 to 2004, as an average, Thomas dissented his opinions the third most frequent of all Justices.

Thomas married his college sweetheart, Kathy Grace Ambush in 1971. They had one child, Jamal Adeen. They divorced in 1984. He married Virginia Lamp, a lobbyist and aide to Republican Congressman Dick Armey in 1987. They have not children together.

CNS



## JOHN CHARLES THOMAS

...was born in 1950 in Norfolk, Virginia. His mother, Floretta Sears Thomas, an activist, founded the Committee Undoing Racial Evil, led the civil rights group, The Committee of 100 Women, and was active in the Women's Political Caucus. Growing up in

a politically active household, Charles, he did not chose to be called John, was required to participate and to give an intelligent opinion on any political topic being discussed.

Thomas was raised by a group of family members, i.e., by his grandmother, his grandfather, and fourteen uncles and aunts, all of whom were either militarily trained or college educated. It was his grandfather that gave him the love of poetry and the courage to speak to a group, as he would often make Thomas recite poetry to a group of his grandfather's friends. He would also be called to the pulpit of the family church, the First Baptist Bute Street Church, to recite Bible verses.

Before moving to New York, Thomas attended Jacox Junior High School in Norfolk. Although it was more than ten years after the Brown v. Board of Education ruling had been passed prohibiting segregated schools in the U.S. education system, the practice still existed. Thomas was scheduled to enroll into the all-black Booker T. Washington High School, but the "Freedom of Choice" law had been passed which allowed blacks to attend white schools and vice versa. Thomas was one of the students selected to attend a white school to prove that integration could work. With that he attended the Maury High School, graduating with honors in 1968.

After completing high school, Thomas enrolled into the University of Virginia in Charlottesville majoring in American Government. While in undergrad, he served on the University President's Committee on Equality, Education, Opportunity, Obligations and Rights. He also served as the President of the Black Students for Freedom, an organization of students focused on the civil rights of African American students. He completed his studies and received a Bachelor of Arts degree as a distinguished student on the Dean's List.

In 1969, then Governor Linwood Holton had been elected to the State House in Virginia. Remembering is campaign promise to include more blacks in the state government, Thomas wrote the Governor reminding his of his campaign promise. Impressed, the Governor appointed Charles to the Virginia Commission on Children and Youth.

To earn his law degree, Charles remained at the University of Virginia where he received his law degree from the Univer-

sity's Law School in 1975. Unable to find a job as the law firms he interviewed with were afraid to hire him in lieu of losing clients, he was fortunate to receive a call from one of the more prestigious law firms in the country, Washington, D.C.'s Hunton & Williams, later renamed styled Hunton, Williams, Gay & Gibson. They hired him making him their first African American attorney. In 1982, he made partner. In being named partner, Thomas became the first African American in the history of the United States to make partner in a southern law firm.

A year later, Thomas got married. One could say it was a wedding gift, while others simply say it was because of his intelligence and work ethics that then Governor Charles S. Robb appointed him to the Virginia Supreme Court. He again made a first in becoming the first African American to be named Justice to the Virginia Court. At only thirty-two years old, he was the youngest person, black or white, to be named to the Court.

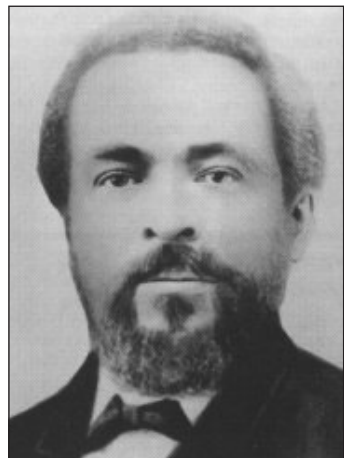
While on the bench, Thomas made his mark and made it quickly. He wrote a key opinion that ruled that husbands could be charged with raping their wives. He was part of the ruling that the Court passed which made Virginia one of the first to allow DNA evidence into trials. Unfortunately, in his seventh year on the Court, Thomas suffered a seizure and was forced to resign his seat. It was later discovered that he had a brain tumor although benign.

A point of note that is well worth mentioning is that in Thomas becoming a Supreme Court Justice, ironically, one of the aunts that helped rear him when he was young, Leah Ward Sears, also became a Supreme Court Justice. She served in the Georgia Supreme Court. She too made several firsts. She was the first woman and the youngest person to sit on Georgia's Supreme Court.

Judge Thomas returned to private practice law with the law firm that first hired him years before, Hunton & Williams. In 2005, he was named as a member of the Court of Arbitration for Sports (CAS), based in Lausanne, Switzerland. The Court, created in 1983, is comprised of lawyers and former Jurists selected from around the world. The independent arbitral institution Court's purpose is to settle sports related disputes that involve rules of international sports federations and drug allegations and violations. The Court has offices in New York City, Sydney, Australia, and ad hoc offices in any host city selected to host an Olympic Game.

A member of almost every Bar association in the United States including the Virginia State, Richmond, National and American Bars, Thomas is also a member of several committees which are far to extensive to list here. His honors are vast and his commitment to community service is unchallenged. Armed with an AAA Complex Commercial Arbitrator and Mediator rating, Thomas continues to litigate and settle cases for his clients in Richmond, Virginia.

CNS



**JOHN  
W.E.  
THOMAS**

...was born in 1847 into slavery. He spent his childhood and learning years in Alabama. After becoming a school teacher and getting married, he left Alabama, moving his family to

Chicago, Illinois. Once becoming settled, he opened a neighborhood grocery store.

Several years later, with teaching still a passion, Thomas opened a small school in his home. That small school became the first school that existed for black education in Chicago. In his school, Thomas taught the young and the old, from the youngest that could learn to read to the oldest that cared to want to, his school gave them the chance.

By the time Thomas reached eighteen years of age in 1865, the Illinois state legislature repealed their discriminatory "Black Laws," that existed at the time. The laws were statutes designed to forbid blacks from voting, serving on juries or entering into contracts. With the passage of the 1870 Fifteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, those "Black Laws," were ruled unconstitutional.

Opposition against blacks being a part of the state legislature began to dissipate. Now having the legal right, in 1874, Thomas took advantage of the opportunity entered politics. He became a delegate to the Republican county convention. He actively became involved with the Second Ward Republican Club.

At the Republican nominating convention in 1876, his name and that of a few others were being passed around as potential nominees to represent the Party in the upcoming election for the 2nd District of Illinois. Thomas began his campaign by hosting speaking engagements throughout the cities wards and neighborhoods. Some questioned his youthful capabilities as he was only twenty-nine years old, while others lauded his wise perspectives for such a young age.

Nonetheless, on November 7, 1876, after a closely ran campaign, Thomas garnered enough votes in the general election to become victorious in his bid for one of the three seats representing the 2nd District of the State of Illinois' state legislature. Thanks to federal changes in the

voting rights laws, Thomas' black community was able to nominate and elect him to the state office position. He became the first black in any mid-western state to be elected to office. As a Republican, he became first black to serve as a state legislator in the history of the state of Illinois.

After serving his term, Thomas ran for re-election in the 1882 general election. He won that election and went on to serve two more terms. While in the state legislature, he served on several committees, including the Judiciary Committee. His committee was pivotal in the passage state laws that banned discrimination in public places.

After leaving his seat in the state legislature, in 1892 Thomas served as a presidential elector for the Republican Party. He ran a successful civil law practice in Chicago for the next seven years. Credited as a leader amongst leaders, Thomas set the path for others to be voted into state government, and other black politicians soon did. Be it, past Chicago Mayor Harold Washington or current President Barack Obama, it was Thomas that paved the way for black political Illinois.

Thomas' care and love for Chicago and the people of Illinois was shown through his dedicated work. His legacy today stands strong in the Chicago African American legal society. Thomas gave his life to protecting the civil rights of his constituents up until his death in 1899 at the age of fifty-four. He was buried in Oak Woods Cemetery located on the south side of Chicago.



**LAWSON  
EDWARD  
THOMAS**

...was born on January 18, 1898 in Ocala, Florida to Hattie (Butler) Thomas and Robert James Thomas. He received his undergraduate from Florida A&M College in Tallahassee, Florida. He then attended the University of

Michigan in Ann Arbor where he obtained his law degree.

After receiving his law degree, Thomas returned to Florida in 1923 settling in Miami to begin practicing law. He would work in the legal profession for the next sixty-six years. It wasn't until 1935 that he his own law firm. When he did argue a cases in court, the courtroom would often be filled with African American spectators, as Thomas was one of the few African American attorneys practicing and people came to see him in action.

In one of his earliest appearances in a Miami courtroom, it had been customary for a white attorney to speak during court proceedings. Thomas opted to speak for his client himself and in doing so a Bailiff threatened to throw him out of a sixth floor municipal court building's window for breaking the custom. Thomas stood his ground, argued the case himself and won.

Thomas's first major success came when he represented a group of African American parents who brought a case against the Broward County School Board claiming unequal educational treatment of their children. At that time, the School Board allowed white children to attend school full time while the African American children's school year was three months shorter. The reason for the shorter school years was to force the African American students to work those three months picking beans in the bean fields during harvest season. Thomas successfully sued the School Board over the long established practice allowing the students a fair opportunity to learn at the pace of their white counterparts.

In other notable cases, Thomas was instrumental in litigating the challenge to obtain equal salaries for African American and white teachers. The case was litigated through the courts reaching the U.S. Supreme Court where Thomas's teachers won a favorable decision. In another case in Dade County, Florida, he successfully sued the city after organizing a beach "Wade-in" to protest against African Americans not being allowed into the city beaches and argued for a beach that blacks could enjoy. He also fought for African

Americans to serve on local juries arguing that the U.S. Constitution provided the option for U.S. citizens to be judged by their peers and African Americans needed to be judged by other African Americans who were their peers.

In 1947, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) hired Thomas to represent Aaron Quince, a black nineteen year old that stood trial for allegedly murdering white twenty-nine year old housewife Leona Carter Sparkman. Thomas challenged the murder indictment on the grounds that Quince would not get a fair trial from the all-white juries that were usually convened and that blacks were arbitrarily omitted from juries because of their race. Circuit Court Judge George Jackson agreed with Thomas and threw out the murder indictment and instructed the County Commissioner to purge the entire jury box and refill it according to Constitutional rules.

After winning these historic cases, in 1950, Thomas was appointed as a Judge of Miami's Negro Police Court by Miami Mayor Robert L. Floyd. He became the African American Judge to serve on a Court in the South since Reconstruction. He was also the first African American to hold public office in the South since Reconstruction as well.

In opening the Negro Police Court courtroom, Judge Thomas hired one of Miami's first five African American police officers, Clyde Lee, as his Bailiff. He also hired an African American clerk, F.W. Reynolds to assist him in running his courtroom. The only setback to the Negro Court was that Judge Thomas could not hear cases involving white defendants. If a crime were committed by a black person and a white person the black person would be tried in the Negro Court and the white would be tried in a white court. If there was a crime committed by a black person against a white person, Judge Thomas could not preside over that case, which was sent to the white court having an all-white jury.

While adjudicating the law, Judge Thomas used his courtroom to teach thousands of Miami residents about the law. He gave the African American community the opportunity to witness that justice could be had by all. He is credited with decreasing juvenile delinquency and with Miami's crime rate in the black community reducing itself. Judge Thomas left the Negro Court bench in 1955.

Five years later, in 1959, Judge Thomas returned to the bench and served another five years. He was an advocate for civil rights and actively participated in social and political endeavors. In advocating for equal rights, he used the law as a tool and worked tirelessly to ensure the underserved understood their rights under the law.

Judge Lawson E. Thomas died on September 14, 1989. He was ninety-one years old.



Photo Not Available



## LUCIA THEODOSIA THOMAS

...was born on March 10, 1917 in Cheyenne, Wyoming to Dottie Mae (Sears) McKinney and Benjamin Franklin Thomas. She received her undergraduate degree magna cum laude

from Xavier University in New Orleans in 1936. For her law degree, she attended the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor graduating in 1938. She continued her legal education at the Robert Terrell Law School in Washington, D.C. where she earned a Bachelor of Laws degree in 1940. Thomas completed her legal education when she received her Master of Laws degree in 1942 from the John Marshall Law School in Chicago, Illinois.

Thomas began her working legal career serving as associate attorney to Benjamin H. Crockett in Chicago. She remained with Crockett for eight years. She then became an Assistant State's Attorney for Cook County, Illinois in 1957 where she worked for four years. She left the State's Attorney to work in private practice but returned to again work in the office in 1965 where she remained for four years.

In 1969, Thomas became an attorney in the legal department for the Cook County Juvenile Court. She remained with the Juvenile Court for four years. She joined the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)'s Legal Defense Fund. Thomas then became a law clerk to the Justices at the Appellate Court and during the same time she gave time to the Chicago Urban League.

In 1974, Thomas became an Assistant Corporate Counsel where she worked for three years. She then was appointed as a Judge in the Marriage Court for the Circuit Court Cook County. She served on the Court for seven years.

In 1983, Judge Thomas was named as a Moot Court Judge for the Illinois Institute Continuing Legal Education. Two years later, she became a member of the Unemployment Compensation Circuit Court to Cook County. She would serve in that capacity for five years.

Judge Thomas during her career has strove to be of assistance to young students encouraging them to edu-

cate themselves as a way to ensure a quality life. She believed that the more education a person obtained, the harder it is for doors to be closed against them. In that regard, Judge Thomas has donated almost \$500,000 for scholarships to help young people go to school and to further their education.

Judge Thomas has been honored with several awards including being the recipient of the Community Service Award, the Push Excellence Award, and the Auxiliary Ladies Grace Award. She has been presented with a BALS Award and a Merit Award. She has also been inducted to the Chicago's Citizen Hall of Fame.

Judge Thomas is a member of the Catholic Order Forrester, the National Association Women Judges, the Delta Sigma Theta, and the Catholic Lawyers Guild. She is a member of the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the Illinois State Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, and the Illinois Women's Bar Association. She is also a member of the Cook County Bar Association, the World Association Judges, and the Illinois Judge's Association. In addition, Judge Thomas is a member of the National Bar Association's Illinois Judicial Council.



## LARRY DEAN THOMPSON

...was born on November 15, 1945 and is a native of Hannibal, Missouri. He received his Bachelor of Arts degree, cum laude, in 1967 from Culver-Stockton College in Canton, Missouri. He earned a Master's degree in 1969 from Michigan State University in

East Lansing, Michigan. In 1974, Thompson obtained his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Michigan in Ann Arbor.

While earning his law degree, Thompson worked at the Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan as an industrial relations representative. Once he obtained his law degree, he moved to St. Louis, Missouri to take a job with the Monsanto Company. Later that same year, he joined the law firm of King & Spalding with headquarters in Atlanta, Georgia. At the law firm, Thompson co-founded the firm's special matters and government investigations practice.

In 1982, Thompson left King & Spalding to become the U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Georgia at the Department of Justice (DOJ). In his role as U.S. Attorney, Thompson investigated internal DOJ matters, prosecuted complex DOJ cases, and defended individuals and businesses in special matters brought to the attention of the DOJ. He also led the Southeastern Organized Crime Drug Enforcement Task Force. Four years later, he left the DOJ to return to King & Spalding as a partner. He remained with the firm for five years.

In 1995, Thompson served as the Independent Counsel for the Department of Housing and Urban Development Investigation. He remained as Independent Counsel for three years. After that, Thompson was selected by the U.S. Congress to chair the bi-partisan Judicial Review Commission on Foreign Asset Control.

In 2001, he served as the Deputy U.S. Attorney General at the DOJ appointed by then President Bush. He held the second highest-ranking post and led the department's National Security Coordination and the Corporate Fraud Task Force. He oversaw the prosecution of Executives involved with the Enron scandal and penned his signature to a DOJ memo granting the deportation of Maher Arar, a Canadian citizen to Syria where he was ultimately tortured.

Thompson signed the memo despite the recommendation of a convened immigration panel that was opposed to Arar's deportation. The panel cited Syria's past indiscretions in torture, which was a breach of international law that prohibited torture. For the abuse he received, Canada ultimately paid millions to Arar for their part in his deportation and torture. The United States has refused to make any payments to Arar on the grounds of "state secrets" by both the Bush and Obama administrations. Arar had filed a lawsuit against the United States Government,



which was dismissed on the grounds of "state secrets" policies by the 2nd Circuit Court of Appeals.

While serving at the DOJ, Thompson also served as the Director of the Provident Financial Corporation, a leading credit card issuer. The company was forced to pay \$400 million in settlement charges for consumer and securities fraud and was eventually sold to Washington Mutual for \$6.5 billion. In the deal, Thompson pocketed \$4.7 million in stock but did so prior to the securities fraud allegations. The Judicial Watch later filed suit against Thompson for allegedly inflating the price of the stock in order to increase his earnings in the sale. He denied any wrongdoings.

In January of 2003, he introduced to the DOJ a document titled, "The Thompson Memorandum", which was designed to help federal prosecutors determine whether to charge a corporation or an individual working for a corporation with criminal offenses. The tough requirements called for a corporation to turn over materials from internal investigations, waive attorney-client privilege, and not provide targeted executives with company-paid lawyers. Critics of the memorandum called the measure an attempt to erode attorney client privilege. The guidelines set by Thompson's memorandum were later softened by Deputy Attorney General Paul J. McNulty, who issued a revised version for implementation.

In August of 2003, Thompson left the DOJ to become a Senior Fellow with Brookings Institution in Washington, D.C.. He served as a Senior Vice President of Government Affairs for the Institution. He also served as General Counsel at Pepsico located in Purchase, New York.

In 2004, Thompson's name was entered as a leading candidate to replace Attorney General, John Ashcroft who resigned from office on November 9, 2004. Alberto Gonzales ultimately was selected for the position. If Thompson had been selected, he would have become the first African American to ever have lead the DOJ. He was later mentioned as a replacement of retiring U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor. That recommendation also failed to materialize a coveted position for Thompson.

In 2011, Thompson became a John A. Sibley Professor in Corporate and Business Law at the University of Georgia School of Law in Athens, Georgia. At the law school, taught Corporate Responsibility and White Collar Criminal Law, and served as a member of the Dean Rusk International Law Center Council. During that time, Thompson also taught courses at Georgia State University College of Law in Atlanta.

In July 2015, Thompson joined Finch McCranie, LLP. He is married to his wife Brenda Anne Taggart. Together, they have two sons.

Thompson has received numerous awards during his legal career for his professional achievements. He has received the Edmund Jennings Randolph Award from the DOJ. He has been given the Outstanding Litigator Award from the Federal Bar Association. He has been inducted into the Atlanta's Gate City Bar Association's Hall of Fame. In addition, Thompson has been given an Honorary Doctor of Laws degree from Pace University in New York.



**M**AVIS  
T.  
THOMPSON

...received her Bachelor of Science degree in Nursing Doctorate from the University of Missouri in Columbia, Missouri. She earned her Juris Doctorate degree from the same University. She received further

legal education at the John F. Kennedy School of Government's program at Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts.

During her legal career, Thompson has served as a St. Louis, Missouri Circuit Clerk for the 22nd Judicial Circuit and as a Prosecuting Attorney for the Missouri cities of Berkeley, Dellwood and Wellston. In serving as the clerk, she was the first African American woman to serve. She has served as an Assistant Attorney General in the state's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit and on the State of Missouri's Division of Employment Security Appeals Tribunal. Thompson has also served as a Senior Associate Attorney in the law firm of Sandberg, Phoenix P.C.. At Sandberg, she worked in the firm's Health Law practice group.

In 2009, Thompson was elected as the President of the National Bar Association. As President, she used her experience as a registered nurse to nurture in health-care initiatives aimed at addressing cardiac and mental health issues. She helped to draw more African-Americans toward pursuing law careers and drew attention to the need for more mentoring of middle and high school students, law students and attorneys new to the profession.

On October 11, 2013, then Governor Jay Nixon appointed Thompson as License Collector for the City of St. Louis. In the 2014 general election, she was elected to a full term. She became the first African American woman to be appointed to the position and first to be elected to public office in two citywide elections.

Thompson has been active in the St. Louis community and her dedicated commitment to serving St. Louis's youth, its' senior citizens, and those in the community interested in education. She has taken on numerous initiatives aimed at bringing public service to civic and professional organizations. She has given her commitment to improving efficiency and service through personalized

training and applied science always using her motto of, "each one must teach one".

Thompson is a member of the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the Mound City Bar Association, and the Women Lawyers' Association of Greater St. Louis. She is a Board member of the Legal Services of Eastern Missouri and serves on the Board of Trustees at the Mt. Herald Missionary Baptist Church. Thompson is also a member of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority Inc..



**L**EONA  
POUNCEY  
THURMAN

...was born on July 1, 1911 in Russellville, Arkansas. After completing high school, she attended Henderson Business College in Memphis, Tennessee. After completing her undergraduate degree in 1931, she

moved to in Kansas City, Missouri to begin her professional career.

She found a job working as a secretary for the law firm of attorney James D. Pouncey. The two fell in love and were married in 1937. Unfortunately, Pouncey would die several years later.

Thurman then decided to return to school and left Kansas City to attend Washington, D.C.'s Howard University's Law School. She completed her law studies in 1949 and was awarded her law degree. She returned to Kansas City where she became the first African American woman to practice law in the city.

Thurman would spend the next thirty-four years practicing law in Kansas City focusing her attention on criminal law and later changing her specialization to family law. She met Odell Thurman, an administrator for the Kansas City school district, and in 1957 the two married. Thurman became active in the affairs of the local Kansas City African American communities, became involved with local politics, and joined the Republican Party. She also gave support to several local organizations, including the YWCA, the Women's Chamber of Commerce, and the League of Women Voters.

In 1969, Thurman served on a Pentagon panel of fifteen civic, business, and government leaders that was convened by then President Richard Nixon for the Department of Defense and charged with studying the operations of the Pentagon. The panel had as its' Chair, Gilbert W. Fitzhugh, the Chairman of the Metropolitan Life Insurance Company. The year long study created a report to the President that gave suggestions on how to improve the overall operations of the management of the Pentagon by the Defense Department's brass.

Thurman was the elected as the President of the Southwest Bar Association. She was then selected to be

the Chair of the Women's Division of the World Peace through Law Center. Thurman also was selected to serve on a committee to restore a Kansas City neighborhood back to the Jazz center it once was. She served on the Board of Directors of the National Coalition of 100 Black Women, the Greater Kansas City Chapter of the American Red Cross, the Mid-Continent Council of Girl Scouts of America, and the Carver Neighborhood Center.

In 1960, for her service to the residents of Kansas City in their legal needs, the National Bar Association presented Thurman with its' C. Francis Stradford Award. She would go on to give legal services representing Kansas City residents for the next twenty-five years. Thurman would die on May 1, 1975 and was buried at Forest Hill Cemetery.





**P**ATRICIA  
"PAT"  
TIMMONS-  
GOODSON

...was born on September 18, 1954 in Florence, South Carolina. She was raised on military bases, as her father was an enlisted United States Army Sergeant.

Her mother worked as a housewife. The family was stationed on Army bases in the U.S. and Europe.

Timmons-Goodson received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Speech in 1976 from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. She remained at the school to attend its' law school where she earned her Juris Doctorate degree in 1979. She enrolled into Duke University School of Law in Durham, North Carolina to obtain her Master of Laws degree doing so in 2014.

To begin her working legal career, Timmons-Goodson took a job as a District Manager for the United States Census Bureau's Charlotte Regional Office working for the Bureau for one year, 1979-1908. She then began working as an Assistant District Attorney in the Office of the District Attorney for the Twelfth Judicial District in Fayetteville, North Carolina. She remained in the office for three years.

In 1983, Timmons-Goodson became a staff attorney for the Lumbee River Legal Services. A year later, she was appointed as a District Court Judge by then North Carolina Governor James B. Hunt, Jr.. In the 1986 general election, Judge Timmons-Goodson won the election to remain on the Court. She would go on to win the 1990 and the 1994 general elections as well.

In 1997, Governor Hunt appointed her to the North Carolina Court of Appeals. She remained on the bench for eight years leaving in 2005 to take a seat on the bench of the North Carolina Supreme Court. Appointed to North Carolina's highest court by then Governor Mike Easley, Judge Timmons-Goodson to replace Associate Justice Sarah Parker. In taking her seat on the Supreme Court, she became the first African American woman to serve as an Associate Justice on the state's highest court. In the 2006 general election, she was elected to remain on the court defeating Judge Eric Levinson. After six years on the Supreme Court bench, s Judge Timmons-Goodson retired

in 2012 being replaced by Court of Appeals Judge Cheri Beasley.

In 2014, then President Barack Obama appointed her to as a member of the United States Commission on Civil Rights. A year later, she was named as the Vice Chair of that Commission. On April 28, 2016, President Obama appointed Judge Timmons-Goodson to serve as a United States District Judge to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of North Carolina. She replaced Judge Malcolm Jones Howard, who took senior status on December 31, 2005. Unfortunately, her nomination expired on January 3, 2017 with the end of the 114th Congress.

Judge Timmons-Goodson has been honored during her distinguished legal career by many legal organizations and other civic institutions for her dedicated legal work. She has been awarded the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the Liberty Bell, and been named the Appellate Judge of the Year. She has been given three honorary degrees and inducted into the North Carolina Women's Hall of Fame. She was also selected to give the commencement address for Johnson C. Smith University located in Charlotte, North Carolina.



**A**LPHONSO  
L.  
TINDALL, JR.

...was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, but I was raised in New Haven, Connecticut. His father was a social worker and became the campaign manger for Henry Parker, the Treasurer of the State of Connecticut and

the first African American to run for Mayor. A nine years old, Tindall was getting a first hand look at governmental affairs from Parker, who was took the young Tindall under his wings, becoming a unspoken Godfather to him.

While in college at St. Olaf College located in Northfield, Minnesota, Tindall took his first internship that set the foundation for his future success. St. Olaf operated on a four month semester with a month off whereby the students would find an internship to work. Tindall needing an internship applied for several positions as a summer associates. With no call backs from any of his interviews, he haphazardly telephoned one of the firms that he had interviewed with, Hawkins Delafield & Wood L.L.P., in Washington, D.C.. To his surprise, someone in their office had forgotten to call him letting him know his start date and that he was late for work. He performed well that summer and would later accept full-time employment with the firm later.

In that summer intern job, Tindall experienced adversity that would prepare him for some of the larger issues he would face as an African American lawyer. He realized that he would have to work twice as hard and needed to be better than others to survive. In a separate internship, he was given an assignment in Washington, D.C. as an intern for Georgia Congressman Andrew Young. Tindall graduated from St. Olaf in 1976 with a Bachelor of Arts degree with Political Science and Economics. He went on to attain his J.D. degree from the University of Connecticut School of Law graduating in 1981.

Tindall passed the bars of both the Connecticut State Bar Association and the New York State Bar Association. He held successful positions with several law firms including stints with Nixon Peabody and Greenberg Traurig in New York. He later joined Hawkins Delafield & Wood L.L.P., the law firm that gave him his first summer intern job, where he excelled again. Tindal, at the young age of thirty-four became the firms first African-American partner.

As a partner, Tindall was in charge of matters surrounding emerging markets, government relations, private-equity asset management, and public project financing. As a senior partner, he is seen as a positive influence for other minority employees of the firm. His presence gives the minority employees the opportunity to see success, something they too can obtain.

As a successful attorney, he represents some of the United States' largest cities in their public sector related matters. He assists his clients in the financing of their public projects. Ironically, as a child he helped support a Mayor get elected, and as an adult, he supports city's across the country with their municipal investments.

Tindall has vast experiences in public policy, public and project finance, and private equity and alternative investments. His expertise lies in the development and implementation of state programs created for the benefit of local municipalities. He focuses on the decision makers at the state and municipality levels and the processes they have in place. He serves as the state and local government's bond counsel, underwriter's counsel, and special tax counsel. In this capacity, he has represented many public authorities across the United States, including in Arizona, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, Missouri, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Oregon, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, Wisconsin, and the District of Columbia.

Tindall has centered his public sector concentration in four areas of expertise for the municipalities. The first is to create a partnership with the his public or private clients. The second centers on the government's pension-fund monies. He negotiates the terms of the documents and transactions. The third area of focus is involving his clients into merging markets both onshore and offshore. The fourth area of Tindall's expertise is related to public-project financing. He represents investment banking institutions in their litigations.

Having had several people in his life to inspire him, including the late Ron Brown, who became the first African-American Chair of the Democratic Party, Tindall makes it his purpose to inspire others, including African American's to enter the law field as the rewards can be great with hard work and a focused mind.

Tindall currently is associated with the law firm of Schiff Hardin LLP, a national law firm with nearly four hundred attorneys and eight offices nationwide in Ann Arbor, Atlanta, Chicago, Dallas, Lake Forest, New York, Palo Alto, San Francisco and Washington, DC..



Photo Not  
Available



## EDWARD B. TOLES

...was born in Columbus, Georgia. In high school, while attending Englewood High School, Toles was able to attend a lecture on economic reform in Georgia given by Clarence Darrow, a

leading United States attorney and member of the American Civil Liberties Union. By the end of Darrow's speech, Toles had made the decision to become a lawyer.

To receive his law degree, Toles attended Loyola University's School of Law in Chicago, Illinois graduating in 1936. After passing the Illinois State Bar exam, he sat up offices in Chicago in 1938. He began to take on cases from local Chicago residents that centered on civil rights, discrimination and unfair housing. In one of his early cases, Toles represented three African American University of Illinois students who had been denied service in a local restaurant. He unfortunately lost that case but due to added pressure from the community, the restaurant would open its' doors to African Americans less than a year later.

For the next fifty years, Toles would service the African American community in similar cases striving to end discrimination and protect the civil and civic rights of African Americans and other minorities. He would work to promote legal opportunities for other African American attorneys and Judges knowing that there were not many that had entered the legal field of which many more were needed. Judge Toles was dedicated to issues of equal rights, particularly for the equal rights of African Americans.

In 1939, Toles took a job with the United States Housing Authority in Washington, D.C. as an Assistant Staff Attorney. With the breakout of World War II, he served as a war correspondent for the Chicago Defender newspaper covering black troops in England, France and Germany. After the war ended, Toles returned to Chicago and continued his law practice representing African Americans with the legal problems.

As his legal career grew, so did his leadership roles. He became a respected Chicago attorney and politically active amongst his legal peers. In the mid 1950s, he was

placed in a leadership role with the National Bar Association where he worked to make more judicial positions for African Americans. He was elected as the President of the Cook County Bar Association and served as President for two years. In that regard, he and other lawyers set up legal aid offices around the country during the 1960s working with the United States Office of Economic Opportunity.

For the National Bar Association, Toles served as the organization's historian. He had an intense interest in history, particularly the history that dealt with African Americans and the judiciary. His research has been utilized in the past by several members of the U.S. Congress and by others who have tried cases or have spoken on matters affecting African Americans and the law.

In 1968, Toles was appointed as a Chicago bankruptcy Judge for the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Illinois. He was the first African American to serve as a federal bankruptcy judge in Chicago. He would remain on the Bankruptcy Court for the next seventeen years. While sitting on the bench, Judge Toles presided over some of the District Court's largest bankruptcy cases, including those involving the Chicago Executive Hotel, the Meisterbrau Brewery, and Unarco Industries, Inc..

Judge Edward B. Toles died of congestive heart failure in Chicago at the age of eighty-nine.

CWS



## LYNN CANDACE TOLER

...was born on October 13, 1959 and is a native of Columbus, Ohio. Her childhood was tumultuous to say the least, as her father suffered from a bipolar condition, which caused her

to have nervous breakdowns by the time she was in the fourth grade and another by the time she became a teenager. Simple things such as a mispronounced word or a dirty carpet could lead to an unfortunate episode with her father. Her saving grace was her mother's resolve and emotional strength, which turned Toler's weaknesses into controlled resolve.

After graduating from high school, Toller attended Harvard University in Cambridge, Massachusetts majoring in American Literature where she received her undergraduate degree in 1981. She earned her Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Pennsylvania Law School in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in 1984. Several years later, Toler married Eric Mumford and the two would have two children together.

Toler began her professional legal career as a practicing attorney specializing in civil law. After serving in private practice for ten years, in 1994, she was named as the sole Judge in the Cleveland Heights, Ohio Municipal Court and served the court for eight years. At thirty-four years old, Judge Toler won her judgeship in a predominantly Democratic District running as a Republican winning by a mere six votes. While serving the Cleveland, Ohio suburb of approximately 50,000 residents, she presided over cases involving misdemeanor crimes, traffic violations, and minor cost civil cases.

As her popularity rose, she was re-elected in the 2000 election, this time garnering 80% of the casted votes. During her second term on the bench, Judge Toler took a more nontraditional approach to litigating cases including assigning litigants to write hand written essays in lieu of more severe punishments. She took special care to young teenage girls and even created a mentoring program to assist them with their problems be they family or societal.

After retiring from the Cleveland Heights Municipal Court bench, from 2001 through 2006, Judge Toler served

as an Adjunct Professor at Ursuline College in Pepper Pike, Ohio. There she created and taught courses on Civil Rights Law and Women's Rights. As a fair and level-headed jurist, Judge Toler soon began to receive national recognition and was named as the Host of 20th Television's nationally recognized television show, "Power of Attorney". After serving as the show's host for one year, she left to give time to her production company, Toler Corp based in Mesa, Arizona. Five years later, Judge Toler returned to the television screen, serving as the host of the nationally syndicated show, "Divorce Court", where she would spend the next eleven years. During that time, Judge Toler also serves as the Executive Producer of the half hour syndicated television show, "Wedlock or Deadlock", which provided counseling to married couples. In 2015, Judge Toler was named as a cast member of the WeTV show, "Marriage Bootcamp" and continues today as a part of the show.

Judge Toler has served on many boards during her legal career, including serving on the Boards of The Juvenile Diabetes Board and The National Alliance for the Mentally Ill (NAMI). She also served on the Board of The Cleveland Domestic Violence Center. In addition, Judge Toler has received many honors and accolades in recognition of her service to the legal profession. She has received the Humanitarian of the Year Award from The Cleveland Domestic Violence Center.

Judge Toler continues to live in Mesa, Arizona and still serves the legal profession as the presiding Judge on the Divorce Court while giving time to her production company as well.

CWS



**STANLEY  
EUGENE  
TOLLIVER, SR.**

...was born on October 29, 1925 in Cleveland, Ohio to Edna and Eugene Tolliver. He attended East Technical High School graduating in 1944. A gifted athlete, he won the Ohio State Championship in the 440-yard dash. He also won the Ohio State

Vocal Contest for his high school as well.

Tolliver was also a gifted musician having the violin as his choice of instruments. For sports, he was involved in heavyweight boxing. Along with his musical and athletic abilities, Tolliver was text book student.

Completing his high school studies, Tolliver enrolled into the Baldwin-Wallace College located in Berea, Ohio, where he graduated in 1948. He went on to earn his undergraduate law degree from the John Marshall School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio. While at John Marshall he majored in opera. He was the founding President of an interracial fraternity that later merged with Pi Lambda Phi. He also ran track.

In 1951, Tolliver was drafted into the U.S. Army. During his time in the Army, he served in the Counterintelligence Corps. Completing his military duties, he took and passed the Ohio bar exam in 1953. He would, in 1968, earn his LLD degree and was awarded, in 1969, his Juris Doctorate degree.

During the civil rights era, Tolliver represented members of the Congress of Racial Equality, he Southern Christian Leadership Conference, and served as legal counsel for the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.. He was Counsel for convicted murderer Fred Ahmed Evans. Following the assassination of Martin Luther King, Jr., a gun battle broke out between black militants and the Cleveland police. Once calm was restored, seven people had been killed and fifteen were wounded. Three of the dead were Cleveland police officers.

Brought up on charges for the murders, Tolliver took on the case to represent Evans. During the trial, Evan's brother, William "Bootsie" Evans, was shot and killed in the doorway of Tolliver's law office. The assailant was not charged as the police claimed the shooter acted in defense of a robbery. Evans was convicted of the murders and sentenced to death. Tolliver was able to get the sentence reduced to life in prison where Evans died of cancer in 1978. Angered by the shootings, Tollivers' home was shot up during a drive-by shooting that barely missed hitting several family members.

From that case, Tolliver and the Cleveland Police Department had a contentious Relationship. He would often accuse the police of improper conduct. He attacked the state prosecutors for their selective prosecution of crimes depending upon the race of the culprits. He advocated for the testing of police officers involved in a shooting requesting they take an alcohol test right after a shooting as was the custom involving civilian shootings.

In 1970, during student protests aimed at forcing the U.S. Government to end the war in Viet Nam and the protesting the Cambodian Campaign, the Ohio National Guard were called to the campus of Kent State University. Opening fire on the students, The Guard killed four students and wounded nine others. Tolliver was the only black attorney that represented the students in their defense.

Tolliver, along with other Ohioans, were pivotal in the desegregation of Cleveland's Public Schools. He was admitted to the argue cases before the U.S. Supreme Court in 1977. A year later, after Cleveland's Board of Education was found to be operating a segregated school system, Tolliver was named to the Committee on the Office of School Monitoring and Community Relations. In 1981, Tolliver was elected to the Board where he served for twelve years. He became the President of the Board.

During his legal career, Tolliver had an infinity to support the underdog. Many times he was successful but not all case ended with a victory. He represented FBI murder Melvin Bay Guyon and kidnapper and murderer, Mark DiMarco. Both were found guilty of their crimes.

Tolliver was an advocate for parental involvement in the lives of the school children of Cleveland. A lifelong member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), he was deeply involved in the civil rights of his community. An active member in his church, Antioch Baptist Church, he served as Chairman of the Board of Trustees.

He became the President of the Norman S. Minor Bar Association, Cleveland's first African American bar association. The local chapter of the National Conference of Black Lawyers elected him as their President as well. He also hosted a weekly radio show, *"Conversations with Stanley E. Tolliver, Sr."* on local radio station WERE-AM. The show's purpose is to improve the lives of Cleveland's minority community and its' schools.

On January 3, 2011, after a lengthy battle, Stanley Eugene Tolliver, Sr. died at the Stokes Cleveland VA Medial Center complications from cancer. He was eighty-five years old. For his life long work's, Tolliver was the NAACP's Freedom Award. The City of Cleveland also named a street in his honor.



**CHARLES  
E.  
TONEY**

...was born in 1881 in Alabama. He received his law degree from Syracuse University in Syracuse, New York. After completing his law studies, Toney moved to New York City, New York to began practicing law. Over the next

several decades, he handled common law cases along with the few black attorneys at the time.

In 1930, Toney was elected to the New York's Manhattan Municipal Court in the newly created Tenth District, which included the neighborhood of Harlem. The Tenth District was created through a bill sponsored by Francis E. Rivers, a Republican African American Assemblyman who served during that time. Judge Toney along with Judge James S. Watson were the first two African American attorneys appointed as a Judge on the local New York Bench. Judge Toney sat on the New York Municipal Court bench for twenty years serving two ten-year terms.

In 1935, Judge Toney became a member of the Board of Directors to the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). His kind humor and his common sense to complex issues helped the NAACP achieve many of the goals they fought to achieve as it relates to bringing more people of color into the organization and to fight the challenges that African Americans were confronted with during that time. Judge Toney was a fair Judge and looked at issues surrounding a case in his adjudication. As more and more blacks arrived in New York from the Deep South seeking a better life than afforded them there, he looked at circumstances surrounding alleged crimes with an understanding of the racial climate and the economic discrimination that affected many who may have committed a crime. He understood their civil rights battles and fairly ruled in his cases. Judge Toney, as did the only other African American Judge at the time, Judge Watson, used their common law-school experiences and their life experiences and served as role models to many in the New York African American community.

Judge Toney was affiliated with the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association. Founded in the 1920s

as an organization that would allow blacks to be a part of a judiciary organization, as the white American Bar Association did not permit blacks to be members, the National Bar Association became the go to organization for black attorneys. As a member of the Judicial Council, Judge Toney and others worked to bring more African Americans into the legal profession, especially into the judiciary.

Judge Charles E. Toney died on March 22, 1950. He was seventy-two years old.





## OPIO TOURE

...was born on March 31, 1954 in Muskogee, Oklahoma under the name of Ezellmo A. Stephens. He was the oldest of five children and received a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1976 from Langston University in Langston, Oklahoma.

While at Langston, Toure led a student protest and sit-in at the Governor of Oklahoma's office after thought was given to closing the University and turning it into a prison.

To obtain his law degree, Toure attended the University of Oklahoma School of Law in Norman, Oklahoma. He graduated from the University with his Juris Doctorate degree in 1979. He then attended Phillips Theological Seminary in Tulsa, Oklahoma where he obtained a Masters of Divinity degree in 2001.

In 1994, Toure was elected as a member of the Oklahoma Democratic Legislature and served in the legislature for twelve years. While serving in the state House, he was appointed to several leadership roles and rose amongst his peers to become the Democratic Floor Leader. He also was elected as the President of the Oklahoma City Association of Black Lawyers. He served as the President of the Northeast Youth Athletic Association as well. In addition, Toure served on the Board of Directors of Oklahoma City Northeast, Inc. and as the County Co-Chair of the Oklahoma County Democratic Party.

Toure was involved in several key and notable legislations while a member of the Oklahoma House. He was part of legislation introduced that gave people who had been wrongfully convicted and imprisoned the right to be compensated for up to \$175,000 in damages. Toure was an adamant opponent against the death penalty and spearheaded House Bill 2635, a bill introduced to stop the execution of the mentally disabled who have committed crimes having intelligence quotients of 70 or below. The bill received bipartisan support with the U.S. Supreme Court later deciding a case, "Atkins v. the State of Virginia", which ruled that executing the mentally disabled was cruel and unusual punishment.

Toure was an opponent of the "Right to Scab" state constitutional amendment, which was a legislative proposal that would give Oklahoma workers the right to be given notice before being terminated from their employment. In Oklahoma, workers could be terminated at any time for any reason and without notice. Toure left the state legislature in 2006 after his term-limit expired.

Toure, as an Alumni of Langston University, was central to the growth and funding of the University. He actively advocated for the advancement of the schools educational offerings and gave much time to those purposes. He served as an Assistant Professor at the school and was pivotal in the development of the institution's Pre-Law Initiative, a program aimed at attracting more African American students into law school.

Toure, as a practicing minister, served as the Associate Pastor of St. Paul Baptist Church in Meridian, Oklahoma. A compassionate Christian, he worked endlessly to represent those that had no voice. His deeply held Christian beliefs were shown in the care he gave his parishioners, the elderly, and the community in which he served. Despite being out of the state legislature, Toure never stopped serving those without sufficient representation.

Toure suffered from a deteriorating lung condition and was awaiting a lung transplant. While waiting on a donor, he suffered a heart attack and was hospitalized in the intensive care unit of St. Anthony's Hospital in Oklahoma City. He unfortunately died before a donor surfaced.

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## STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES

...was born on September 10, 1949 in Cleveland, Ohio to Mary Looney Tubbs and Andrew Tubbs. Her mother worked as a factory worker while her father worked as a skycap. Stephanie had three sisters of which she was the youngest.

Tubbs Jones, while in high school earned ten academic and athletic awards before graduating from Collinwood High School located in her hometown of Cleveland. To begin her collegiate career, she enrolled into Case Western Reserve University, also in Cleveland. While at Case Western, Tubbs founded its' African American Students Association. She received her undergraduate degree from Case Western's Flora Stone Mather College in 1971 earning a B.A. in Sociology with a minor in Psychology.

Tragedy struck Tubbs Jones in 1976. Her husband, Mervyn L. Jones, a year before they were married, had been charged with robbery and aggravated murder. Pleading guilty to a lesser count of manslaughter, Mervyn was given "shock probation," Shock probation is granted by a judge who orders a convicted offender to prison for a short time. The remainder of their sentence is then suspended in favor of probation. The purpose of "shock probation" is to give the offender an initial experience of prison life, hoping the experience will serve as a deterrent to recidivism.

Despite his conviction, Stephanie stood by his side. She and Mervyn stayed married for twenty-seven years until Mervyn's death on October 2, 2003. Together, they had one son, Mervyn Leroy Jones, Jr.

To begin her law degree process, Tubbs Jones enrolled into Case Western's Law School. She completed her studies in 1974, graduating with a J.D. degree. In her first legal law job, for the equal opportunity administrator's office of the northeast Ohio regional sewer district, she became their Assistant General Counsel. In 1979, Jones while working on a successful political campaign, was chosen, from amongst her peers, to run for public office. Running on a platform that highlighted the exclusion of minority members on the bench, Jones, was voted in as a judge on the Cleveland Municipal Court.

In 1983, then Ohio Governor Richard Celeste appointed Jones to the Cuyahoga County Court of Common Pleas. She sat on the bench for eight years. She was soon promoted to a Cuyahoga County Prosecutor position. That appointment made Tubbs Jones Ohio's first African American prosecutor and the only black female prosecutor in any major city in the United States. She went on to be re-elected twice.

After leaving the bench, Tubbs Jones made a run for Justice of the Supreme Court of Ohio. Mary Cacioppo, the winner of the Democratic Primary, for health reasons, withdrew from the race. Tubbs Jones took her place in the general election. Unfortunately, she lost to Republican incumbent J. Craig Wright. In 1991, after recovering from her defeat, Tubbs Jones took the job as the Cuyahoga

County Prosecutor. She served in that position until late 1998 when she resigned to run for Congress.

U.S. House of Representative Louis Stokes had retired from his Ohio district seat, leaving the seat open for grabs. Tubbs Jones put her name in the race. She rode her seventeen year career in public service and her well established political connections to an easy approval rating victory, receiving a whopping 80% of the votes in the general election from her constituents.

In 1999, Tubbs Jones took her seat in the 106th U.S. Congress. Sitting on her first committee, she served on the Banking and Financial Services (later renamed Financial Services) and other small business committees until 2001. She later served on the Standards of Official Conduct Committee from 2001 to 2003. That committee oversees the guidelines on ethics for House members and House staff. Reelected four times, Tubbs Jones eventually served on the prestigious Ways and Means Committee from 2003 to 2005. This committee controls U.S. tax laws.

During her tenure in Congress, Tubbs Jones represented some of Cleveland's more affluent suburbs as well as poor, inner-city neighborhoods. While in Congress, she helped to secure funding for housing development and to aid local businesses. She chaired the Congressional Black Caucus' Housing Task Force. The Task Force investigated allegations against subprime financial lenders and introduced legislation against predatory lenders. Tubbs Jones also gave efforts to secure Social Security and Medicare, and long-term care were preserved to senior citizens.

She gave great attention to children's issues focusing on their health and education. Her authored Child Abuse Prevention and Enforcement Act of 1999 successfully was passed which increased funding for child-protection workers to obtain more training. The Act generated funds from forfeited assets, fines, and bail bonds.

Tubbs Jones, during her term in the 109th Congresses (2001-2007), introduced the Uterine Fibroids Research and Education Act which increased funding for the research of fibroids and provided better treatment for women having fibroid issues. She introduced a bill that created the Campus Fire Prevention Act which provided federal funds for fire suppression equipment in college housing. She also authored the Count Every Vote Act which improved systems in electronic voting. For senior citizens, she introduced legislation that addressed the legal status of cash balances for pension plans.

As Co-Chairwoman of the Democratic National Committee, Tubbs Jones opposed the Iraq war voting against U.S. involvement. She voted for free trade agreements, despite representing constituents from unionized Districts. She was a leading voice for the Peru Trade Promotion Agreement of 2007.

Congresswoman Tubbs Jones, on August 19, 2008, while driving her car erratically and being followed by police, suffered a brain aneurysm. Her car left the road and came to a stop in a nearby field. Taken to Huron Hospital's Cleveland Clinic, an intensive care facility, Tubbs Jones was placed in critical condition and on life support. Unfortunately, she died the next day from complications related to her brain hemorrhage.

Tubbs Jones was remembered by the membership organizations that she was a member of including the Delta Sigma Theta sorority and their National Five Point Thrust Program, specifically the Social Action and Political Awareness Program. She was also a Golden Life Member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.



**M**ARCUS  
O.  
TUCKER, JR.

... was born on November 12, 1934 in Santa Monica, California. His mother was a school-teacher and a realtor while his father was a physician. He received his undergraduate de-

gree for the University of Southern California at Los Angeles (USC). His law degree was earned at Washington, D.C.'s Howard University Law School. He would later obtain a Master's degree from Chapman University in Orange, California.

After completing his law degree in 1960, Tucker returned to Santa Monica to take a job with the Santa Monica City Attorney's Office as a staff attorney. He was the first African American Deputy City Attorney to serve in his hometown Santa Monica. He then became a United States Assistant Attorney in Los Angeles where he served for two years. He was the first African American attorney to practice in Los Angeles. He then became a Court Commissioner.

In 1976, Tucker was appointed as a Judge to the Long Beach Municipal Court. He was the first African American appointed to the Municipal Court. A year later, Judge Tucker was named as the Presiding Judge of the Court. He was challenged by two opponents who wanted the seat in a nasty 1978 general election however Judge Tucker was elected to remain on the Court's bench.

While sitting on the bench, Judge Tucker was an advocate for the rehabilitation of teenage offenders. His desire to change the lives of young adults that have found themselves in the clutching of the law would become the central driving force for his adjudication from the bench. Judge Tucker was an advocate for the establishment of teen courts, established a playground facility for children to occupy themselves while awaiting court action, and initiated a low-cost program that could drug test parents while under the court's watch. Judge Tucker believed that children should be protected and feared that if not given proper guidance and direction while they were young, by the time they reached adulthood, it would be too late to correct their misguided behavior.

Judge Tucker would go on to preside over the entire Los Angeles County Juvenile Court system. He is cred-

ited with lower the rate of truancy among the children that came before the Court and refused to allow young offenders to be released from probation until they improved their school grades. In some cases, he enforced graduation from high school or the completion of a GED program before teenagers could be released from their probation status.

After many years serving on the Juvenile Court, Judge Tucker was appointed as a Judge to the Los Angeles County Superior Court. He took to the Superior Court the same determination for children's rights that he had while serving on the Juvenile Court. He would retire from the bench altogether in 2004.

Judge Tucker was married for almost forty-seven years to his wife to Indira Hale Tucker who passed away in 2012 at the age of sixty-eight. She was a genealogist, educator, and historian. She was the Co-Editor of the book, "The Heritage of African Americans in Long Beach: Over 100 Years" and co-founded the African American Heritage Society of Long Beach. Together, the couple had one daughter, Angelique.

Judge Tucker was given numerous awards by a variety of legal and community groups for his public service while serving on the bench. He was given a Jurist of the Year Award from the Juvenile Courts Bar Association and was recognized by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's (NAACP) Long Beach chapter for his dedicated service. Judge Tucker was also inducted into the National Bar Association Hall of Fame.



**S**AMUEL  
WILBERT  
TUCKER

...was born on June 18, 1913 in Washington, D.C.. He attended elementary school at the Parker-Gray School and graduated from high school from Armstrong High School. He then enrolled into the hometown school, Howard University where he

earned his undergraduate degree in 1933. Tucker then entered an independent legal training program and was able to take the bar exam at the young age of twenty. He passed the bar and was admitted to practice law on December 27, 1934.

Before Tucker began to practice law and opened an office in Alexandria, Virginia, he spent two years serving in the Civilian Conservation Corps. With the outbreak of World War II, he served in the 366th Infantry and saw combat in Italy. By the time of his discharge from the Army, Tucker had risen to the rank of Major.

When his military duties were completed, he returned to Virginia, opened a law office in Emporia, and began representing African Americans in civil and criminal cases. He was the first and only African American attorney in the town. He also became involved in civil rights issues affecting the black community.

Tucker then began to fight segregation and even staged a peaceful protest at the all-white library in Alexandria to force it to allow African Americans to use the library. Five young men were arrested for disorderly conduct with Tucker representing them to have the charges dropped. By September of 1939, Tucker had filed suit against the library to desegregate the facility and the local Court heard his petition. After presenting his case to the Court, it was agreed that the library should be opened to African Americans. Instead of allowing African Americans into the library, the city of Alexandria built a separate library was built for African Americans to use, the Robert H. Robinson Library.

Over the next decade, Tucker became one of the leading attorneys in Alexandria. The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) hired him to handle many of their civil rights cases in Virginia and Tucker was victorious in most of them. In one of his more notable cases, the case of the "Martinsville Seven", Tucker worked tirelessly on the appeal in the case, hoping to spare the lives of seven African American men accused of the rape of a white woman in 1949 in Martinsville, Virginia. At the time, only black men were executed for rape while white men who raped were sentenced to time in prison. Tucker argued in the case that over the past several

decades, forty-five black men had been executed for rape while no white man had been executed for the same crime. Unfortunately, the state of Virginia sentenced the men to death and held the largest mass execution for rape ever reported in the United States.

Tucker would then take on the fight to desegregate Virginia's public schools. He appeared before the United States Supreme Court on five different occasions making appeals for the Court to intervene and end segregation. Tucker, along with other lawyers hired by the NAACP filed fifteen petitions in their efforts to desegregate Virginia's schools. He also argued for the desegregation of all-white juries in cases where African Americans found guilty were given harsh and unusual punishment for their crimes. Tucker would go on to file civil rights and discrimination suits in fifty of Virginia's counties.

In 1960, Tucker began a new law firm in Richmond, Virginia along with fellow attorney, Tucker with Henry L. Marsh III. The pair immediately took on the task of integrating the public schools in Prince Edward County, Virginia. By the mid 1960s, the two were litigating approximately 150 cases before the state and federal Courts. For his extreme dedication to desegregation causes, Tucker was named the 1966 "Lawyer of the Year" by the NAACP's Legal Defense Fund.

Tucker twice ran for a seat in the U.S. Congress and twice lost. Going in, he knew his chances of winning were slim but did so to show African Americans courage and to give them resolve to fight for their legislative rights and to give them a voice in government. In his fight to service the needs of the African American community, he served as the Chairman of the NAACP's legal staff of the Virginia State Conference and served on the NAACP's National Board of Directors.

Tucker has been given many honors and accolades for his tireless work on behalf of the NAACP. The organization awarded him their William Robert Ming Advocacy Award for his financial and personal given and the city of Emporia, Virginia erected a monument in his honor. The city of Alexandria dedicated the Samuel W. Tucker Elementary School in his name and also established the Samuel W. Tucker Fund to collect items related to Virginia's civil rights history.

In Richmond, the City Council, despite great controversy, renamed a bridge named after Confederate General J. E. B. Stuart after Tucker and the Virginia State Bar Association's Young Lawyers Conference established the Oliver Hill/Samuel Tucker Institute, named for both African American attorney Oliver Hill and Tucker. In addition, the a scholarship was created by the Oliver W. Hill & Samuel W. Tucker Scholarship Committee, which annually presents scholarships to deserving first year students at the law schools in Virginia and Howard University in Washington, D.C..

Samuel Wilbert Tucker died on October 20, 1990.





**A**LEXANDER  
PIERRE  
TUREAUD, SR.

...was born on February 26, 1899 in New Orleans, Louisiana to Eugenia Dejan and Louis Tureaud. Both of his parents had deep roots in the rich language and legacy of rural Saint James Parish New Orleans. There is

no doubt that during his early childhood and rearing years, Tureaud heard many stories of his ancestors and those of the rural South's struggles for civil rights and racial equality. He grew up in a culture of beliefs and laws full of code and protection of the community.

Tureaud received his early learning attending the public schools of New Orleans including the Bayou Road School. When he became a teenager, he left home making his way to Chicago, Illinois. Having a love for the arts, and being an inspiring actor, he performed in many theatrical productions while he worked as a railroad laborer to earn money.

Leaving Chicago, Tureaud moved to New York City to live with his brother. Civil minded, he became involved with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). At a very young age, he was able to gain tutelage from major black leaders and masterminds, including W.E.B. DuBois.

In 1918, at the age of nineteen, moved to Washington, D.C. finding a job as Junior Clerk in the library of the Justice Department. While working, he completed the requirements to receive his high school diploma. He would work at the Justice Department for seven years.

In 1925, Tureaud enrolled into Howard University Law School in Washington, D.C.. At Howard, Tureaud became involved with campus organizations, joining a fraternity and meeting his future wife, Lucille Dejoie. When his undergraduate studies were complete, Tureaud left Washington, returning to his native New Orleans.

Set on opening his own practice, Tureaud soon found it difficult to support his practice in the Jim Crow South. Thanks to the Comptroller of Customs, Walter L. Cohen, a leader in Louisiana's "Black and Tan" Republican group, Tureaud was able to secure employment in his office as Deputy Comptroller. The steady pay allowed him to keep his law business going by working part time.

As a part of the Customs staff, Tureaud had access to the ledgers and manifests kept by the Custom House. He was


familiar with the 1911 chronicle of New Orleans' history written by Rodolphe-Lucien Desdunes and wanted to document his Creole community's history. During the next several years, Tureaud would scour the city looking for any bit of information he could find. He inspected historical documents, manuscripts, poetry writings, and he listened to oral stories. Those collected items became the crux of the A.P. Tureaud Papers housed at the Amistad Research Center and Historic New Orleans Collection in New Orleans.

While preserving New Orleans' history, Tureaud penned and co-authored several articles, including "The Negro at the Louisiana Bar," and "The Negro in Medicine in Louisiana," co-authored by Dr. Clarence Clement Haydel.

In 1927, Tureaud joined the New Orleans Branch of the NAACP vowing to have the same tenacity for civil rights as fellow New Orleanans Rodolphe-Lucien Desdunes and Louis-Andre Martinet. He was well aware of the discriminatory practices of the southern white supremacist. It was during this time that Tureaud was admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court in 1935. He assisted the NAACP and Thurgood Marshall in the preparation for many of the civil rights cases that came before the court or that was created to challenge the courts.

Tureaud played a pivotal role in many civil rights cases. He represented teachers in their legal pursuit for equal pay in Louisiana. He was successful when he represented clients involved in local sit-ins to protest segregated restaurants. He represented clients that broke down doors for state-supported professional, graduate and undergraduate schools that did not admit blacks. He also represented a client who attempted dismantled the segregated city bus and transit buses which had separate seating for blacks and whites..

In that end, Tureaud and a group of other civil rights advocates, orchestrated an arrest of a black man that could pass for white for buying a ticket and having him sit in the white section of a railway car. From that planned challenge, Tureaud became a part of the team of lawyers that plead the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case of *Plessy v. Ferguson*. In that case, the Supreme Court ruled constitutional Louisiana's "separate but equal" for of segregated travel. Unfortunate for the black riders, the provided accommodations were separate but not equal. Service and comfort were not on par with other railroad cars designated for whites. In 1864, Tureaud and his group collected almost one thousand signatures on a petition to change the Louisiana law and it was hand delivered to President Abraham Lincoln, demanding the right to vote. With the right to vote, the locals could vote out the Louisiana law of separate by equal. The Plessy decision would be overturned in 1954.

After a lengthy battle with cancer, Tureaud died on January 22, 1972. He was seventy-three years old. 



**R**EGINALD  
MAURICE  
TURNER, JR.

...received his Bachelor of Science degree from Wayne State University in Detroit, Michigan in 1982 majoring in Psychology. While at Wayne State, he joined the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.. He completed his law degree in 1987 graduating

from the University of Michigan. At Michigan, Turner served as the Law School Student Senate President. That year, he also became the President of the State Bar of Michigan.

To begin his legal career, Turner took a job working as a law clerk to Michigan Supreme Court Justice Dennis Archer. After working for Archer for two years, he then began his legal career practicing law in Detroit. It was not long before he obtained several recognizable clients and joined the law firm of Clark Hill PLLC. He soon represented past Justice Dennis Archer in his quest for a seat on the Michigan Board of Education. He did the same for future Mayor Kwame Kilpatrick in his attempt to become a Board of Education member.

In 1996 Turner served as a White House Fellowship in Washington, D.C. where he managed a Presidential Task Force. He also served as an aide to former Housing and Urban Development Secretaries Henry Cisneros and Andrew Cuomo. Several years later, Turner was served President of the State Bar of Michigan.

In 2003, Turner was appointed by then Michigan Governor Jennifer M. Granholm as a member of the Michigan State Board of Education to fill the vacancy for the unexpired term of Sharon Gire. While serving on the Board, he was instrumental in making improvements to the state's K-12 curriculum and became an advocate for teachers, administrators, students, and parents. During that time, Turner was selected to serve on Governor John Engler's Blue Ribbon Commission on Michigan Gaming and on the City of Detroit Brownfield Redevelopment Advisory Committee. A year later, he became a member of the Board to the American Society of Employers. He would also later serve as the Chairman of the City of Detroit Board of Ethics.

In 2005, Turner was elected as the President of the National Bar Association. He served as President for one year. That year, Turner was then named as the Director and Board member to Comerica, Inc., one of the country's largest financial institutions based in Dallas, Texas. At Comerica, he served as the Chairman of the Board to the company's Enterprise Risk Committee, served on the Audit Committee, and

also served on the Qualified Legal Compliance Committee. Two years later, he became a member of the Michigan State Board of Education where he served for eight years.

In 2011, Turner became the Chair of the Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity in the Profession for the American Bar Association. The following year, he became the Vice Chair of the American Bar Association's House of Delegates. He served as a Delegate for four years. Also in 2012, Turner served as the Vice Chair to the Detroit Institute of Arts.

In 2015, Turner served as the Chairman of the Detroit Public Safety Foundation. That year, he also became the Director of the Masco Corporation. Masco is a leading manufacturer of home improvement products use in home construction. While at Masco, Turner served on the Board's Audit Committee and its' Governance Committee.

For seventeen years, Turner has served as a highly accomplished corporate litigator for Clark Hill. He serves as a government affairs advocate and strategic advisor for the firm and serves as a member of the Executive Committee. He also serves on the firm's Government Policy Group, and Labor and Employment Practice Group.

During his lengthy time with Clark Hill, Turner has successfully represented cases involved in class action and public policy matters in state and federal courts as well as administrative tribunals. He has given legal counsel in drafting labor and employment contracts in both the private and public sectors. In that regard, Turner has served on the State Bar of Michigan's Labor and Employment Section Council and the American Arbitration Association's Michigan Employment Advisory Council.

Turner has given much time to giving to many civic and charitable organizations. He has served as the Vice Chairman of the Community Foundation for Southeast Michigan and as a Trustee of the Hudson-Webber Foundation. He has given time serving as a Chairman of the United Way for Southeastern Michigan and has served on the organization's Executive Committee. Turner has served as the Secretary of the Wayne County Airport Authority and as Secretary of the Wayne County Business Development Corporation. In addition, Turner has served on the Advisory Committee to the Detroit's Brownfield Redevelopment Committee.

Turner has been recognized and honored by many legal institutions and associations during his storied career. He has been listed among the Best Lawyers in America and Super Lawyers, Crain's Detroit Business Power Lawyers and its' Most Connected, and the Michigan Chronicle Power 50. He was also recognized by the Michigan Lawyers Weekly and named by Best Lawyers as a Lawyer of the Year.

Turner is married to his wife Marcia and together they have two daughters, Nia and Imani.



## TWANDA TURNER-HAWKINS

...received her Bachelor of Science degree from Tuskegee University where she majored in Dietetics. At Tuskegee, she was a member of the school's Gospel Ensemble. To obtain her law degree in 1993 from Georgia State College of Law in Atlanta,

Georgia where she served on the Moot Court and served as a Real Estate Law Tutor.

To begin her legal career, Turner-Hawkins accepted a job with Allstate Insurance Company working as a claims adjuster in their Atlanta offices. She then was appointed to handle catastrophic injuries for the company. She served as a lead trial attorney and managed over one hundred cases trying over forty jury trials.

Turner-Hawkins also oversaw the company's Savannah, Georgia offices. A few years later, she opened her own law firm, the Law Offices of Twanda Turner-Hawkins.

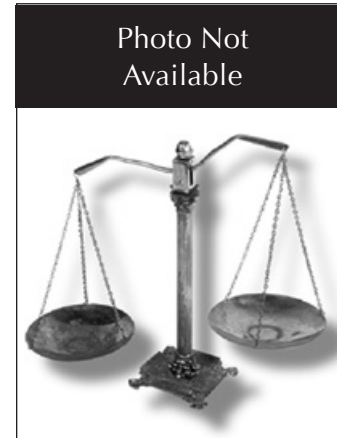
At Allstate, Turner-Hawkins would rise through the ranks to become the company's Corporate Counsel. She was given responsibility for the process management and litigation administration for the company's dispute resolution services in their Northbrook, Illinois location. She also was appointed as the Managing Attorney for the state of Pennsylvania. As Managing Attorney, Turner-Hawkins she was given responsibility over the staffing, the business administration, the leadership development, and the training of Allstate's employees. For Allstate, Turner-Hawkins was able to take the firm paperless and was able to reduce the company's real estate cost by twenty-five and reduced the company's postage by fifty percent for her department.

Turner-Hawkins has served as a member of the National Bar Association (NBA) and has served as a former Vice President of the organization's Regions and Affiliates. She served as a member of the NBA's Philadelphia Women's Lawyer Division, Co-Chaired the NBA's Diversity Pipeline Initiative, served as the Chair for the NBA's Mentoring Program. In addition, Turner-Hawkins served as the Director for Region III and Vice Chair for the Corporate Law Section.

Turner-Hawkins has served as a member of the American Bar Association, the Philadelphia Bar Association,

and the Pennsylvania Bar Association. She has also served as a member of the Barristers Association of Philadelphia. As a member of the faculty to the Pennsylvania Bar Institute, Turner-Hawkins taught the continuing legal education course, "How to Go Paperless" and "Litigation for Young Lawyers". She also served as a course planner for the Institute. In addition, she has served as a member of the Philadelphia Association of Defense Counsel.

For her service to Allstate, Turner-Hawkins was presented the company's Distinguished Leadership Award. She received the William C. Staszak Outstanding Teamwork Award and was named as one of Philadelphia's top sixty African American Lawyers by the Philadelphia Tribune. In addition, the National Bar Association presented Turner-Hawkins with its' Presidential Award.



## A NDREW R. TYLER

...is a native of Indiana and began his higher education learning at the City College of New York in New York City. He completed his undergraduate degree from Columbia Univer-

sity in New York City. He earned his law degree from the Brooklyn Law School and was admitted to the New York bar in 1945.

After passing the bar, Tyler set up practice in New York City where he would serve local residents in the legal affairs for the next several decades. During that time, he was elected as the President of the Harlem Lawyers Association and served for three terms. He also served as the New York Urban League's first Vice Chairman.

In 1967, Tyler was selected to serve as a Democratic Delegate-At-Large member to the New York Constitutional Convention in Albany. At the Convention, he was appointed to the Committee on Bill of Rights and Suffrage. Later that same year, Tyler was appointed as a Judge to the New York Civil Court.

In 1969, he was elected to a fourteen-year term to the New York State Supreme Court. In being elected to the Court, he was supported by members of both the Democratic Party and the Republican Party. While serving on the New York Courts, Judge Tyler held several unpaid posts such as serving as the President and later Chairman of the Board for Haryou-Act, an organization that ran most of Harlem, New York's antipoverty programs.

Justice Tyler's tenure on the bench became marred in controversy several years later when in 1976 he was convicted of perjury in a case that received much publicity, both locally and nationally. New York State Prosecutor, Maurice H. Nadjari, led a special investigation centered on corruption in the judiciary. The State's Prosecutor's Office had brought grand jury indictments against twelve New York Justices of which Justice Tyler was one. Nine of the indictments were dismissed in the early stages of trial preparations with three being set for trial. Of the three Justices that were tried, two were acquitted with only Justice Tyler receiving an unfavorable verdict and was removed from the bench. He was convicted on three counts of perjury, which carried a seven-year sentence in

jail. He was ultimately sentenced to five years probation, which he immediately appealed.

Charges of racist persecution were soon heard from Judge Tyler's New York supporters with calls for Nadjari's dismissal as a state prosecutor. It was argued that Nadjari's case against Judge Tyler was one of entrapment and the Judge should be reinstated. An appeal was made, which resulted in Judge Tyler's conviction being overturned by the Court of Appeals in Albany with a unanimous ruling. Justice Tyler was reinstated to his seat on the bench and with back pay being returned.

It was determined by the Court of Appeals that Prosecutor Nadjari had indeed trapped Justice Tyler and had pressured him into giving false testimony about his association with Raymond Marquez, a convicted gambler and numbers runner with ties to the underground syndicate. For his part in the debacle, Nadjari received a severe blow to his reputation as a state prosecutor and was removed from his job. Justice Tyler, after being reinstated, completed the remainder of his term and then left the judiciary.

Justice Andrew R. Tyler died on October 13, 1989. He was seventy-one years old.





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