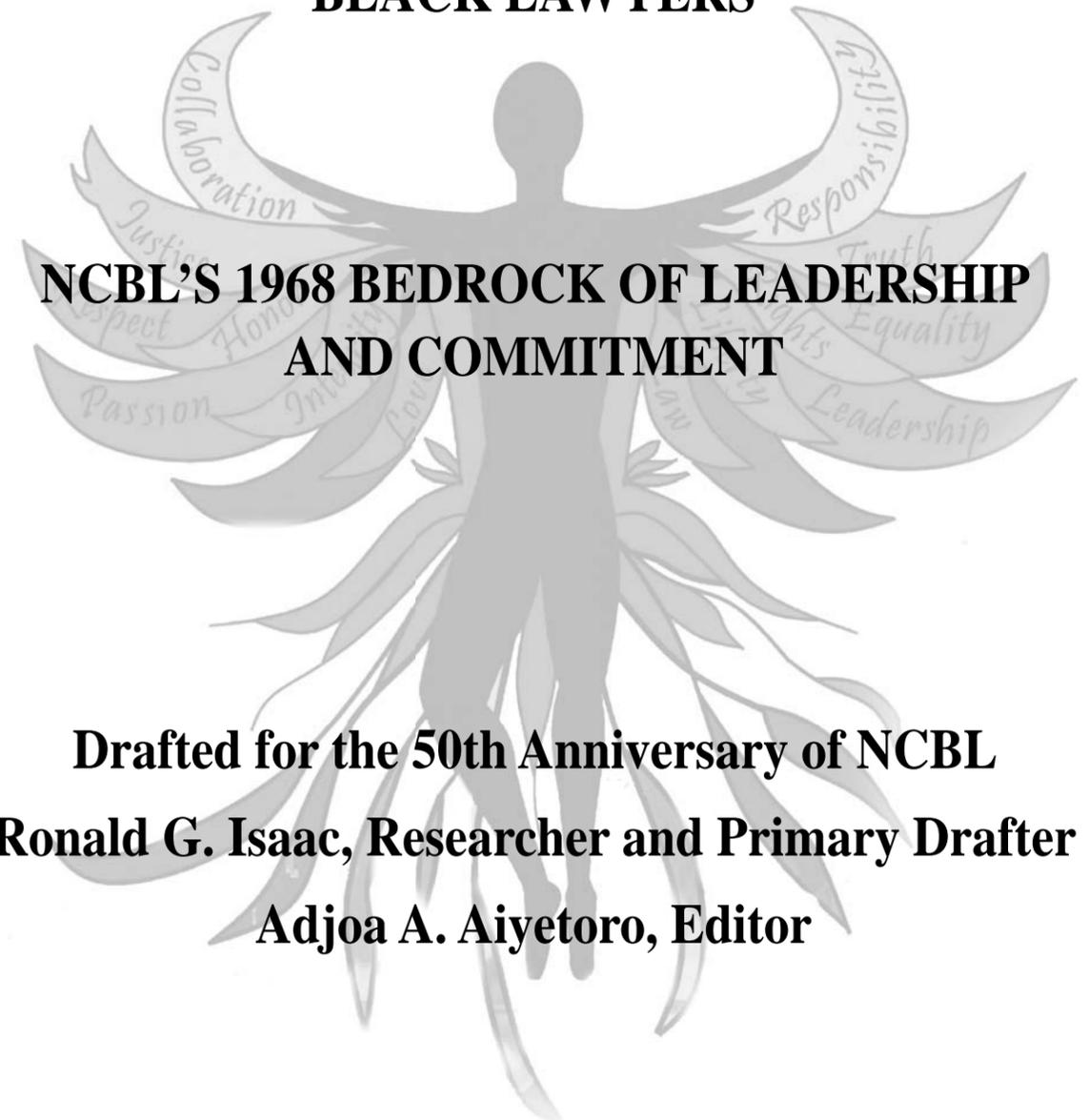




**THE FOUNDERS OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE
OF
BLACK LAWYERS**

**NCBL'S 1968 BEDROCK OF LEADERSHIP
AND COMMITMENT**

**Drafted for the 50th Anniversary of NCBL
Ronald G. Isaac, Researcher and Primary Drafter
Adjoa A. Aiyetoro, Editor**



NAPOLEON B. WILLIAMS JR. (---- - ----)

Napoleon B. Williams Jr. served as an attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund Inc. After leaving this position, Williams went into the private practice of law in New York City.

LEROY WILSON, JR. (---- - ----)

Leroy Wilson, Jr. graduated from Morehouse College with a Bachelor of Science degree in 1962. He received a M.S. degree from the University of California, Berkeley, in 1965 and a J.D. from the University of California Boalt Hall School of Law in 1968. After graduating from law school, he was hired as a staff attorney by IBM, serving in the Office of Vice President and General Counsel from 1968 to 1974. From 1974 to 1982, he was employed as Assistant Division Counsel in Union Carbide's law department. Wilson engaged in the private practice of law from 1982 to 2011, closing his practice to become a legal and business consultant to attorneys and legal practitioners, and their clients, in Africa. He is currently employed by Lembede Tambo Pitje Chambers as an External Consultant on New York Law and the U.S. Legal System and General Legal Concepts.

BRUCE McMARION WRIGHT (1919 - 2005)

Bruce McMarion Wright was born in Princeton, New Jersey. He graduated from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania and, in 1942, entered the Army. He served in a segregated medical unit and was in the third wave of the Normandy invasion in 1944. He was honored with two Purple Hearts and two Bronze Stars. In 1946, he enrolled at New York Law School, taking classes at night while working odd jobs. After passing the bar exam in 1950, Wright practiced law in New York with a number of Black firms. In 1967, he was named counsel to the city's Human Resources Administration, and three years later was named to the Criminal Court by Mayor John Lindsay. There, Wright's bail policies became controversial. He was nicknamed "Cut 'em Loose, Bruce." He insisted, and acted on the principle, that the Eighth Amendment of the Constitution precluded the excessive use of bail to punish or detain people for the sake of crime prevention or to coerce guilty pleas. For some poor people, he argued, \$50 could be excessive. NCBL's second executive director, Lennox Hinds, successfully represented Judge Wright when charges were brought by the New York City Police Department to have him removed from the bench due to his bail policies. With little hope that Mayor Ed Koch, a harsh critic, would reappoint him when his 10-year term expired, Wright ran successfully for Civil Court judge in 1979, and was elected to the New York Supreme Court in 1982. He served in the court's civil branch for 12 years until his retirement in 1994. NCBL represented Judge Wright when c

PREFACE

NCBL's 50th Anniversary Conference Committee decided in the Spring 2018 that NCBL needed to collect and present the bios of its founders. Ron Isaac stepped up to the plate and volunteered to develop the bios for booklet. No conference committee member, including Ron, knew at that time the enormity of that task. Ron spent countless hours researching the founders. As you will see, there was varying amounts of information available, thus the unevenness of the bios. Although we have all the sources from which the information was taken, we chose only to cite if we were quoting a founder or the source was not easily found. For some of those listed as founders on an original list obtained in NCBL's historic documents (in which some names are misspelled) included in this booklet, no information was obtained in Ron's search. If you have any additional information on any of the NCBL founders or any corrections to any of the information contained in this document, please send that material to Ron Isaac, rgisaac@gmail.com.

This was a labor of love; however, neither of us was prepared for the inspirational boost that the preparation of this document provided. It was a shot in the arm. It was a boost to flagging energy at times as we worked to organize this historic conference. It was an amen opportunity time and time again as we worked, often to mental exhaustion, to present the information that Ron spent hours in collecting and putting into a first draft.

The Founders of NCBL reflect the theme of this conference. They linked arms across political and ideological differences to forge a legal organization that had as its *soul's* purpose to be the Legal Arm of the Movement for Black Liberation. We can thank them in words. Our deeds of continuing the work for which they created the framework, however, is the greatest way to demonstrate our appreciation. Black liberation is still in process. It is our duty to continue, cross-generational work to defend and protect and uplift oppressed communities.

Fifty Years! And Still We Rise: Linking Arms with the 21st Century Movement for Black Liberation

Ronald (Ron) Isaac
Adjoa A. Aiyetoro
October 4, 2018

**FOUNDING MEMBERS OF
THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BLACK LAWYERS**

Fritz Alexander
Raymond Pace Alexander
David Allen
Norman C. Amaker
Lawrence R. Bailey
Richard R. Bailey
Richard A. Bancroft
S. Baylor
Derrick A. Bell, Jr.
Howard Bell
Hon. Howard L. Bennett
Louis Berry
Oryell Billingsley, Jr.
Darnell J. Blackett
Raymond A. Bolden
Franklyn J. Bourne
James Brade
Joshua Brooks
Russell Brown
Haywood Burns
Philip L. Burton
Mildred Byrd
Robert L. Carker
William Chance, Jr.
Leroy D. Clark
Algernon J. Cooper
George Donald Covington
Hon. H.B. Daniels
Gordon Davis
Lorenzo Davis
Hon. Surrey E. Davis
Charles E. Donegan
Elrich Eastman
Dorsey Evans
Lolis Elie
Chauncey Eskridge
Henry W. Floyd
Terry A. Francois

Garry Gayton
Larry S. Gibson
Simon Gourdine
Lola McAlpine-Grant
Edward Graves
Fred D. Gray
Jeff L. Greenup
John DeWitt Gregory
William L. Harris, Jr.
Leonard Harrison
Arnett Hartsfield, Jr.
Douglas M. Haywoode
Richard J. Hopkins
Walter S. Houston
George Howard, Jr.
Hon. Samuel Jackson
Tomothy L. Jenkins
Norman Johnson
Charles E. Jones
Clayton L. Jones
Vernon E. Jordan, Jr.
Charles J. Josey, Jr.
Leroy B. Kellam
Charles Kellar
C.B. King
John Langsford
Christine Dennis LeFlore
Walter J. Leonard
Chester I. Lewis
Conrad J. Lynn
Stanley R. Malone
Lyle A. Marshall
Hon. Album Martin
Ruby Martin
William J. Massie
Donald P. McCullum
James Mclver

Floyd B. McKissick
Ivan Michael
Percy S. Miller
Nathan H. Mitchell
Ernest N. Morial
Dion G. Morrow
Archibald Murray
Gordon J. Myatt
Alban L. Niles
Eleanor Holmes Norton
Jeanus Parks
Hon. Basil A. Paterson
Samuel R. Pierce
James O. Porter
Hon. Charles B. Rangel
Frank D. Reeves
Inez S. Reid
Henry J. Richardson
James Robinson
Willie L. Robinson
Sheila Rush
Richard D. Rutledge
D.V. Sampson
Charles S. Scott
George Smith
Herman T. Smith
Hope R. Stevens
Donald Stocks
Jack E. Tanner
Kirkland Taylor
Warren L. Taylor
Florence C. Vaughn
Bob Watkins
William A. White
Napoleon Williams, Jr.
Leroy Wilson, Jr.
Hon. Bruce Wright
Lee R. Young

National Conference of Black Lawyers
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Imari Obadele, Nelson Mandela, Angela Davis and Assata Shakur. Stevens was a co-chairman of NCBL from 1975 to 1979.

JACK E. TANNER (1919 - 2006)

Jack E. Tanner was born in Tacoma, Washington. During World War II, he joined the U.S. Army after graduating high school. Tanner served in the Pacific in a segregated unit. When he returned from the war, Tanner enrolled in the College of Puget Sound while working as a longshoreman. Upon graduation, he enrolled in the University of Washington Law School and received a J.D. degree in 1955. Tanner was the only African American enrolled in the law school. He kept his longshoreman job after passing the bar because of the limited job opportunities for Black attorneys in Tacoma. Tanner's joined the NAACP in law school and served as Regional Director from 1957 to 1965. As Regional Director he led protest marches in the early 1960s in Kennewick, Washington. Tanner's involvement in the NAACP led to his appointment to the organization's national board. In 1963, Tanner was an advisor to President John F. Kennedy on race relations in the aftermath of the assassination of Mississippi Civil Rights leader Medgar Evers. Tanner also supported Native American activists in the Pacific Northwest in their campaign to end treaty violations by the federal government. He was especially active in the fishing rights protests in the Olympia, Washington. In 1966, Tanner became Washington's first Black candidate for Governor, unsuccessfully seeking the Democratic nomination. Tanner served as the Washington state campaign manager for Henry "Scoop" Jackson's failed bid for President in 1976, becoming one of the first African Americans in the nation to hold that post. In 1978, Tanner became the first African American in the Pacific Northwest to be appointed to the federal bench. He was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the United States District Court. Tanner took senior judge status in 1991.

ROBERT P. WATKINS (1937 -)

Robert P. Watkins was born in Boston, Massachusetts. He received an A.B. degree from Harvard University in 1959, an LL.B. from Columbia University School of Law in 1965 and a degree in criminology from Cambridge University in 1970. Upon graduation from Columbia in 1965, Watkins joined the U.S. Department of Justice, where he served for two years as a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division. Watkins then served as Hearing Counsel for the Federal Maritime Commission before becoming a law clerk to Judge William B. Bryant of the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia in 1968. Following his clerkship Watkins served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the District of Columbia until 1972. He joined the Williams & Connolly LLP law firm, becoming a partner in 1976. Watkins is currently serving as *of counsel* to the firm. Watkins has also served on the United States Circuit Judge Nominating Panel for the District of Columbia (1977-1980) and on the Board of Trustees for the DC Public Defender Service (1977-1983), including Chairman of that board from 1979 to 1981. Watkins is currently affiliated with The McCammon Group, where he handles dispute resolution in the areas of medical malpractice, personal injury, general commercial, and employment, including class action race, gender, and age discrimination matters.¹³

¹³ <https://www.mccammongroup.com/ neutrals/robert-p-watkins/>

Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). In the 1970s, he taught in the political science departments at the University of Kansas and Kansas State University. From 1972 to 1975, Scott served as general counsel for the Kansas Commission on Civil Rights and, subsequently, as a hearing examiner.

GEORGE BUNDY SMITH (1937 - 2017)

George Bundy Smith was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. He was raised Washington, D.C. Smith's excellent elementary school performance resulted in his earning a full scholarship to Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts for his high school education. He graduated from Phillips in 1955 and attended Yale University, where he received his B.A. degree in 1959. He applied to Yale Law School, along with his twin sister, Inez, and graduated in 1962. His legal career began at the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc.(the Fund). As a staff attorney, he tried a range of civil rights cases, including school desegregation and demonstration cases. After leaving the Fund, he served as a law clerk to a number of judges. Smith accepted the position of Administrator of Model Cities for New York City, a federally funded program developed as a part of the Johnson Administration's War on Poverty to improve the quality of life in urban areas. Smith was appointed to an interim term on the Civil Court in May 1975 by New York City Mayor Abe Beame. In November 1975, Smith was elected to the Civil Court, where he was assigned to the Family Court, Criminal Court, and as an Acting Judge of the New York Supreme Court. Smith was elected to the New York Supreme Court in 1980 where he served until 1986. Governor Mario Cuomo appointed him to the Appellate Division, First Department as an Associate Judge in 1987 until his appointment to the Court of Appeals in September 1992. Smith served as an Associate Judge on the Court of Appeals until his term expired in 2006. Smith was an adjunct professor at a number of New York schools including Fordham University Law School, New York Law School and Baruch College.

HOPE R. STEVENS

Hope R. Stevens was born in Tortola, British Virgin Islands, and raised on the island of Nevis. He came to the United States in 1924, graduating from City College of New York in 1933 and Brooklyn Law School in 1936. In 1941, Stevens, as president of the Manhattan Council of the National Negro Congress, was part of an organized effort that resulted in an agreement with the private bus companies operating in the borough to hire Black bus drivers. The following year, he was among a group of Black lawyers and businessmen who created the United Mutual Life Insurance Company in Harlem. In 1948, he and other Black businessmen helped found the Carver Federal Savings and Loan Association, which he said "set an example for other banks in lending money to Negroes to purchase property."¹² In 1960, he was elected president of the Uptown Chamber of Commerce, and held the post until 1977. Stevens also served as chairman of the Harlem Urban Development Corporation, and as a member of the board of the Offtrack Betting Corporation. Stevens' involvement extended far beyond Harlem. He fought hard for self-determination for Caribbean Islands such as his native St. Kitts-Nevis, for which he was awarded the Order of the British Empire. Hope Stevens was the founder of the law firm Stevens, Hinds and White in Harlem, New York. The firms focused on representing international clients such as South Africa, Namibia, Angola and Cuba representing political prisoners, including

¹² <http://www.nytimes.com/1982/06/25/obituaries/hope-stevens-harlem-leader-lawyer-and-businessman-is-dead>

HONOR ROLL

**FOUNDING MEMBERS
NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF BLACK LAWYERS**

FRITZ WINIFRED ALEXANDER II (1926 - 2000)

Fritz Winifred Alexander II was born Carl Bernard Zanders Jr. in Apopka, Florida. His name was changed to Fritz Winfred Alexander, II, after his uncle, a lawyer in Gary, Indiana. He received his bachelor's degree from Dartmouth University and his law degree from New York University Law School. In 1957, Alexander, David Dinkins and Thomas Benjamin Dyett formed a law firm which became one of the leading Black law firms in New York City. Their clients included United Mutual Life Insurance Company and Allied Federal Savings & Loan in Queens. In 1970, Alexander was appointed a Civil Court judge. He also served as a judge in the State Supreme Court's Criminal Branch and in the Appellate Division. In 1985, Governor Mario M. Cuomo appointed him to the New York State Court of Appeals. He was the first Black person to serve on that court in other than an interim capacity. In 1992 he was appointed Deputy Mayor of New York City in the Dinkins Administration.

RAYMOND PACE ALEXANDER (1897 - 1974)

Raymond Pace Alexander was a civil rights attorney in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He was a major contributor to the northern civil rights struggle and was committed to improving the status of Black lawyers. During the 1930s, he worked with what were considered leftist organizations to desegregate an all-White elementary school in Berwin, Pennsylvania. After World War II, his political sympathies shifted over the years although he remained vocal in his advocacy. He embraced anti-communist liberalism and formed coalitions with like-minded Whites. He criticized Black Power rhetoric but shared some philosophies with Black Power such as Black political empowerment and studying Black history. By the late 1960s he focused on economic justice by advocating a Marshall Plan for poor Americans and supporting affirmative action.

NORMAN C. AMAKER (1936 - 2000)

Norman C. Amaker was born and raised in Harlem, New York. He was a law professor at Loyola University using his experiences during the civil rights movement to teach law students civil rights history, including the roles of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Growing up in Harlem, Amaker had been involved with social justice issues and politics since he was a teenager, passing out leaflets and working with his father through the neighborhood church. He was also influenced by the community activism of Adam Clayton Powell. After earning his law degree from Columbia University Law School in 1959, Amaker became very involved in the civil rights movement. He became the Executive Director of the Neighborhood Legal Services Program in Washington, D.C. in 1971. In 1973 he took the position of General Counsel for the National Committee Against Discrimination in Housing. Amaker taught at a number of law schools, including the University of Maryland and Rutgers University. He joined the faculty at Loyola University as a full-time professor in 1976. In the early 1990s, Amaker co-founded the Midwestern People of Color Legal Scholarship Conference, which was designed to provide both mentoring and academic feedback to the scholarly writings of minority law professors.

LAWRENCE R. BAILEY, SR. (1918 - 1998)

Lawrence R. Bailey, Sr. was born in the Panama Canal Zone. His family moved to New York while Bailey was still young. Bailey received a bachelor's degree in 1939 and a law degree in 1942, both from Howard University, and in 1942 and 1943, served as deputy clerk of the United States District Court in Washington, D.C. After serving in the Army from 1943 to 1947, Bailey practiced law in Harlem for two decades, during which time he served as chief counsel of the New York State Conference of NAACP branches. He was also a member of the Harlem Lawyers Association. He was the first Black person to be deputy clerk of a federal district court. Bailey was the first Black member and officer of New York's Metropolitan Transportation Authority Board. He was appointed to the Board of the MTA by Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller in 1970. He remained on the MTA Board for 20 years, becoming vice chairman in 1975. He retired in 1990.

RICHARD A. BANCROFT (---- - 2005)

Richard A. Bancroft was a Northern California Superior Court judge before his retirement.

DERRICK A. BELL, JR. (1930 - 2011)

Derrick A. Bell, Jr. was born in the Hill District of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He was a lawyer, professor, dean and civil rights activist. He is touted as the "Father of Critical Race Theory." Bell received an A.B. degree from Duquesne University in 1952 and an LL.B. from the University of Pittsburgh School of Law in 1957. After graduating from law school, Bell took a position in the Civil Rights Division of the United States Justice Department. He later became assistant counsel for the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, working with Thurgood Marshall. Bell was hired as a law professor by Harvard Law School in 1969. He was the first tenured African American Professor of Law at the school. In 1980, he became Dean of Oregon University School of Law, becoming the first African American to head a non-historically Black law school. He left Harvard Law School in 1991 in protest of the school's failure to have a tenured woman of color on its faculty. He joined the faculty of New York University School of Law as a visiting professor where he taught from 1991 until his death.

L. HOWARD BENNETT (1913 - 1993)

L. Howard Bennett was born in Charleston, South Carolina. After graduating from Fisk University in 1935, Bennett developed a career as a civil rights advocate, first in the South and then in Minneapolis. He forged friendships with W.E.B. DuBois and the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., as well as with former Vice President Hubert A. Humphrey. He earned a law degree and master's in political science from the University of Chicago in 1950. Bennett moved to Minneapolis in 1950 to practice law. He directed the local branch of the NAACP and the Urban League until 1958 when Governor Orville Freeman appointed him to the Municipal Court, becoming Minnesota's first Black judge. He lost the judgeship during a re-election bid two years later. In 1963, he was elected a member of the Minneapolis School Board. He was first the Black member elected to the Minneapolis School Board. A few months later, President John F. Kennedy tapped him to join the U.S. Defense Department as a civil rights expert. He also served in this capacity in the Nixon Administration. During his tenure he worked to weed out racial discrimination in the military. Bennett retired in the 1970s.

Opportunity Commission was given court enforcement authority, Robinson accepted appointment as Associate General Counsel in charge of all trial court litigation. Robinson left the EEOC to become Executive Director of the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights under Law. During the Reagan presidency, he was a key player in the coalition of civil rights advocates that persuaded Congress to pass nineteen civil rights statutes. Robinson is the founding Dean of the University of the District of Columbia School of Law.

SHEILA A. RUSH (---- -)

Sheila Rush graduated from Harvard Law School in 1964. In 1968, Rush was recruited by a group of Harvard Law School classmates from the Manhattan law firm Debevoise and Plimpton to become the associate director of a *pro bono* law office in East Harlem. This law office was established by a group of Wall Street and Midtown law firms to demonstrate that it was possible to integrate civil rights cases into the firms' mainstream practices. Rush was the administrator of the program and supervised the staff attorneys who were involved in a full range of civil rights and poverty law cases. The office thrived under Rush's leadership and she was promoted to Director. A second office was opened in central Harlem under her leadership. In 1972, Rush became a member of the faculty of Hofstra University Law School. Rush left Hofstra to join the Ananda Church of Self Realization, in Nevada City, California, where she serves as Communications Director and handles legal matters. She has taken the name Nayaswami Naidhruva.¹¹

RICHARD B. RUTLEDGE (---- -)

Richard B. Rutledge was born in New Jersey and raised in Brooklyn, New York. He enlisted in the U.S. Army in 1941 and spent five years in the Army Air Corps. After his discharge, Rutledge obtained an undergraduate degree at the Washington Square College of Liberal Arts and Science and a law degree from Brooklyn Law School in 1950. Rutledge maintained a private law practice in Queens, New York for 34 years. He was elected to the Civil Court of the City of New York for a 10 year term. He was elected to serve as a judge on the Supreme Court of the State of New York for a 14-year term and served in Queens County for seven years. Now a resident of Florida, Rutledge was appointed a Circuit Court Mediator by the Florida Supreme Court in 2000. In 2003, he was appointed by the U.S. District Court as a Federal Court Mediator

CHARLES SHELDON SCOTT, SR. (1921 - 1989)

Charles Sheldon Scott was born in Topeka, Kansas. He earned a Bachelor's degree at Washburn University in 1948, and his Juris Doctor from Washburn University School of Law in 1970. Joining his father's law firm, Scott worked on several civil rights cases, including one which led to the integration of South Park Elementary School in Johnson County, Kansas. He also worked on cases to end discriminatory practices at Topeka theaters, restaurants, and pools. Scott represented members of the Topeka chapter of the NAACP in 1950 when they decided to challenge the separate but equal doctrine applied to public education. That case, was consolidated with NAACP cases from three other states and Washington, D.C., became *Oliver L. Brown v. The Board of Education of Topeka* (Brown v. Board of Education). In the 1960s, Scott worked with other civil rights workers in the South and served as National Legal Counsel for the

¹¹ <http://anandaanswers.com/defending-yoga-in-america-the-sacrifice-of-ananda/>

moved to Washington during the Carter administration to work as Deputy General Counsel for Regulation Review at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, and later, as the first Inspector General of the Environmental Protection Agency. From 1983 to 1986, she served as Corporation Counsel for the District of Columbia before leaving to join a private law firm. In 1995, Reid was nominated by President Bill Clinton to become an associate judge on the D.C. Court of Appeals. Reid went on senior status in 2011 and served as a senior judge until she retired on December 12, 2017.

HENRY J. RICHARDSON III

Henry J. Richardson III is Professor of Law at Temple University Beasley School of Law. He is an expert in International Law and Human Rights. Richardson obtained his A.B. degree from Antioch College in 1963. Upon graduating from Yale Law School in 1966, he served for two years as the International Legal Adviser to the government of Malawi shortly after its independence. He advised the Malawi government on inherited treaties and a range of southern African international legal negotiations and questions. When he returned to the U.S. he became Faculty Africanist at Law at University of California at Los Angeles, earning his LL.M with a focus on international law and development in Africa. He was active in several anti-apartheid groups. From 1977 to 1979, Richardson served on the National Security Council Staff in charge of African Policy and United Nations issues in President Carter's administration. He was subsequently the Senior Foreign Policy Adviser to the Congressional Black Caucus and an attorney in the Office of General Counsel of the Department of Defense. He served as Chair of NCBL's International Section.

JAMES STUART ROBINSON (1934 - 2013)

James Stuart Robinson was raised in Houston, Texas. He earned his undergraduate degree Fisk University in Nashville, Tennessee and his law degree from Texas Southern University in Houston. After serving in the U.S. Marines, Robinson joined his father's real estate firm. He was involved in the development of numerous housing projects in Houston, as well as in Dallas and Minneapolis. Robinson committed himself to increasing the availability of affordable housing. After meeting Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr., Robinson moved to Atlanta, Georgia and worked with the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLS). He led SCLS's fair housing initiative. Robinson established the consulting firm Urban East Housing, which provided technical assistance to nongovernmental organizations sponsoring housing developments.

WILLIAM L. ROBINSON (1942 -)

William L. Robinson received his A.B. degree from Oberlin College in 1963 and his LL.B. from Columbia University School of Law in 1966. While at Columbia, Robinson spent substantial time in the South doing legal research on voting rights and sit-in demonstration cases. He was Executive Director of the Law Student Civil Rights Research Council, meeting with southern civil rights lawyers and assigning northern law school students to work under their supervision. Robinson became an attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. (the Fund) in 1967 and litigated employment discrimination cases. He became the Director of the Fund's employment discrimination practice and First Assistant Counsel. Under his leadership, the Fund won more than twenty-five federal appellate cases that essentially rewrote the procedural requirements of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, allowing lay persons to bring employment discrimination claims under the statute. Shortly after the Equal Employment

LOUIS BERRY (1914 - 1998)

Louis Berry was born in Alexandria, in Rapides Parish in Central Louisiana. The son of a tailor and grocer, Berry graduated in 1941 from Howard University School of Law in Washington, D.C. In 1945, he became the first African American admitted to the practice of law in Louisiana since 1927; and, he was the first African American permitted to practice law in his birth city in Louisiana. In 1947, he was one of several Black lawyers recruited to join the faculty of newly opened Southern University Law Center. Some time prior to 1950, Berry returned to Alexandria, serving as the town's only Black lawyer and working actively to improve living conditions in the Black community. After the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965, Berry worked with Black ministers in Rapides Parish to register African American citizens to vote and to eliminate the procedural artifices designed to suppress Black voter participation, such as civics tests covering highlights of the Constitution of the United States. From 1972 to 1974, Berry served as Dean of Southern Law Center.

ORZELL BILLINGSLEY, JR. (1924 - 2001)

Orzell Billingsley was born in Birmingham, Alabama. He was one of the first African Americans admitted to the Alabama Bar after graduating from Talladega College and Howard University School of Law. During his law career he was widely respected legal authority and representative for the interests of African Americans. He was known as the "black Patrick Henry of Alabama." He was deeply involved as a civil rights attorney, representing both Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rosa Parks during the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott. He helped to incorporate more than 20 small towns in Alabama that consisted of majority Black populations. He also founded the Alabama Lawyers Association. Billingsley was often called by Presidents John F. Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson for advice and counsel during the 1960s Civil Rights Movement concerning specific actions in Alabama. Billingsley was active in the Democratic Party and fought for a re-write of Alabama's 1901 Constitution. He also assisted in the establishment of the Alabama Democratic Conference while working to end the segregationist policies of the Alabama Democratic Party.

RAYMOND A. BOLDEN (1933 -)

Raymond A. Bolden is a lawyer with Mitchell Law Group, a law firm in Joliet, Illinois. He served as Associate Judge of the Will County Circuit Court in Illinois from 1986 to his retirement in 2013.

J. FRANKLYN BOURNE, JR. (1917 - 1972)

J. Franklyn Bourne, Jr. was born in Atlantic City, New Jersey. He was one of the original judges of the District Court for Prince George's County in Maryland. He obtained his bachelor's degree from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania in 1940. He interrupted his law school attendance in Dickinson Law School in Pennsylvania to enlist in the United States Coast Guard, where he served from 1942 to 1945. After his discharge, Bourne earned his law degree at Howard University Law School in June 1948, and was admitted to the Maryland Bar that fall. He opened a law office in Baltimore. In the early 1950s, Bourne moved his practice to Prince George's County, Maryland, becoming the first African American attorney with a law office in the county. Bourne served as president and general counsel of the Prince George's County chapter of the NAACP while practicing law. Bourne, a Republican, was appointed chairman of

the Maryland Workmen's Compensation Commission by Governor Spiro Agnew. He was the first African American to hold this position. In 1970, Governor Marvin Mandel, a Democrat, reappointed Bourne to that position. In 1971, Governor Mandel appointed Bourne to serve as a judge on the newly-created District Court of Maryland. As a living memorial to Bourne, attorneys in Prince George's and Montgomery counties formed the J. Franklyn Bourne Bar Association in 1977 "to promote legal excellence, community service, and the advancement of African-Americans in the legal profession."

JAMES BRADE (---- - ----)

James Brade, now deceased, graduated from Brooklyn Law School. He was admitted to the practice of law in New York in 1957.

WILLIAM HAYWOOD BURNS (1940 - 1996)

William Haywood Burns was born in Peekskill, New York. He received his bachelor's degree from Harvard College in 1962, and his juris doctor from Yale University Law School in 1966. After graduating from Yale, Burns joined the New York law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison. He left shortly after joining the firm to become law clerk to Judge Constance Baker Motley of the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. After serving as Judge Motley's law clerk, he joined the legal staff of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund Inc. In 1970, Burns was asked to be the first National Director of the National Conference of Black Lawyers, where he served from 1970 to 1973. His contributions as National Director included testifying against the nominations of Judges Clement Haynsworth and G. Harrold Carswell to the U.S. Supreme Court and representing Black students at Cornell University facing criminal charges from student demonstrations. He organized Angela Y. Davis' legal team, making important contributions, for example, while she was incarcerated in New York. Immediately after leaving the directorship of NCBL, Burns played a key role in coordinating the defense of the Attica prisoners charged in the 1971 prison uprising and was a member of the legal team. In 1987, he was named Dean of CUNY Law School at Queens College, becoming the first Black dean of a law school in New York. He stepped down as dean in 1994, remaining on the law school's faculty. Burns died tragically in an automobile accident in 1996, in Capetown, South Africa, where he was attending an International Association of Democratic Lawyers (IADL) conference.

PHILIP L. BURTON (1915 - 1995)

Philip Burton was born in Topeka, Kansas. He received a Bachelor of Science degree in 1939 from the University of Kansas and a Juris Doctorate degree from Washburn College in Kansas in 1948. As a law student, Burton brought suit against the City of Topeka for discrimination in the city-owned movie theaters and public swimming pools. Following law school, Burton moved to Seattle and started a law practice. He worked on the initial filing of *Brown v. Board of Education* and continued to be involved with the legal work that flowed from the *Brown* case until his retirement. He was president of the Seattle branch of the NAACP and served on its board for 45 years. In 1967, he helped win passage of the state's Fair Housing Act, which barred discrimination in real estate transactions. In 1977, he filed a lawsuit that spurred the Seattle School District to adopt a mandatory school desegregation program. He retired from his law practice in 1990.

Law School and obtained his Juris Doctorate degree. Rangel was admitted to the New York bar in 1960 and practice law until 1963 when United States Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy appointed him Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York. He later served as an aide to the speaker of the New York Assembly and was counsel to the President's Commission to Revise the Draft Laws. Rangel was elected to the New York State Assembly in 1966. In 1970, after narrowly defeating legendary congressman Adam Clayton Powell in the Democratic primary, Rangel was elected to represent New York's 15th District in the U.S. Congress. A co-founder of the Congressional Black Caucus, Rangel was elected chair of the group in 1971. As Chair, in 1974 he refocused the CBC on pursuing legislative goals specific to poor, urban, and African American constituents. In 1987, Rangel contributed to the demise of apartheid in South Africa as the author of the "Rangel Amendment," which denied certain tax benefits to U.S. corporations engaged in business with South Africa. He also founded the Rangel State Department Fellows Program at Howard University in 2002, with the goal to significantly increase the representation of minorities in the U.S. Foreign Service. In 2007, Rangel became Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee, but his chairmanship was ultimately undone by a string of ethics violations for which he was censured by the House in 2010. He retired following the 114th Congress (2015-2017).

FRANK D. REEVES (1916 - 1973)

Frank D. Reeves was born in Montreal, Canada and educated in New York City before moving to Washington, D.C. He earned his undergraduate and law degrees from Howard University. After receiving his law degree in 1939, Reeves worked for the NAACP in New York City. In the 1950s, he worked with Thurgood Marshall, James Nabrit, and others to desegregate public schools. In addition to his legal career, Reeves was involved politically. He was the first African American asked to sit on the DC Board of Commissioners, the three-man panel that ran the city from 1874 until limited home rule was instituted in 1967. He declined the appointment. In 1960, Reeves became the first African American member of the Democratic National Committee. He served as an advisor on minority affairs to Senator John F. Kennedy during his campaign for the presidency. During the 1960s, Reeves taught at Howard University School of Law while also serving as legal counsel to the Southern Christian Leadership Conference. He used his legal expertise as SCLC organized the various aspects of the 1963 March on Washington for Jobs and Freedom and the Poor Peoples Campaign in 1967. At the time of his death, Reeves was chairman of the D.C. Board of Higher Education and a senior fellow at the Joint Center for Political Studies, a research institution that he helped establish and directed until 1972.

INEZ SMITH REID (1937 -)

Inez Smith Reid was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. She was raised in Washington, D.C. Reid began college at Howard University and transferred to before graduating from Tufts University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1962. She and her twin brother, George Bundy Smith, enrolled in Yale Law School. They were the only Black students in their class. After graduating from Yale Law School, Reid enrolled in UCLA, where she earned a Master's degree in political science. The following year, Reid accepted a position as a professor in Congo-Leopoldville, where she taught students studying to become magistrate judges. She returned to the United States and began a 12-year teaching career at the State University of New York while enrolled in graduate school at Columbia University. Reid earned a Ph.D. from Columbia University and a LL.M from the University of Virginia School of Law. After a series of teaching positions, Reid

1966 to 1971, he represented the Upper West Side of New York City and Harlem as a member of the New York State Senate. He gave up his Senate seat in 1970 for an unsuccessful run for Lieutenant Governor of New York. In 1978, Paterson was appointed Deputy Mayor of New York City by Mayor Ed Koch. He stepped down as Deputy Mayor in 1979 to become Secretary of State of New York, the first African American to hold the post, which he held until 1983. Paterson subsequently joined the law firm Meyer, Suozzi, English & Klein, where he was co-chair of the firm's labor law practice, representing transit and hospital workers, teachers, and labor unions.

SAMUEL RILEY PIERCE, JR. (1922 - 2000)

Samuel Riley Pierce, Jr. was born in Glen Cove, New York. He enrolled in Cornell University where he starred on the track and football teams. His schooling was interrupted by World War II. He was drafted into the United States Army and assigned to criminal investigations in Italy and North Africa. After the war, he returned to Cornell and graduated with honors in 1947. He entered Cornell Law School and earned a J.D. in 1949. In 1952, he received a LL.M. in tax law from New York University School of Law. Paterson began his legal career in 1949, as an assistant district attorney in New York City. In the early 1950s he became an Assistant United States Attorney. In 1955, he moved to Washington, D.C. and became Assistant to the Undersecretary of Labor. In 1956, he was appointed counsel to the Antitrust Subcommittee of the House Judiciary Committee. He was a Ford Foundation fellow at Yale University Law School from 1957 to 1958. In 1959, New York Governor Nelson A. Rockefeller appointed Pierce to fill a judgeship vacancy. He reappointed him in 1960 to fill another vacancy. Pierce failed in his election bids for the seats. Pierce returned to private practice of law where he specialized in labor, tax, and antitrust cases. In the early 1960s, Pierce represented the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King as a member of the legal team that won the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case, *New York Times v. Sullivan*, which established important principles in libel law. In 1964, Pierce helped found Freedom National Bank in Harlem, the first New York State commercial bank with a majority of African-American officers. From 1970 to 1973, he served as general counsel for the Treasury Department under President Richard Nixon. Pierce joined President Ronald Reagan's cabinet in 1981 as Secretary of the Department of Housing and Urban Development. He left Reagan's administration in 1989. He remained in Washington, D.C. and worked as a consultant until his death.

JAMES O. PORTER (1941 - 2016)

James Oran Porter was born in Washington, D.C. In 1969, Porter founded The Porter Law Firm in Washington, D.C. with a mission to act as a voice for the voiceless and to fight for those who are unable to fight for themselves. Several years later he opened The Porter Law Firm in Las Vegas and was the second African American attorney in the state of Nevada. He served as Director of Clark County Legal Services in the 1970s and was a co-founder of the Las Vegas Chapter of the Urban Chamber of Commerce.

CHARLES B. RANGEL (1930 -)

Charles B. Rangel was born in Harlem, New York. He served in the U.S. Army from 1948 to 1952, and was awarded the Bronze Star and Purple Heart for his service in the Korean War. After his discharge, Rangel returned to New York, completed high school and enrolled in New York University earned Bachelor of Science degree. He was admitted to St. John's University

MILDRED BYRD (1940 -)

Mildred Byrd, a native of Bossier Parish Louisiana, earned her civil rights credentials participating, along with her father, in demonstrations with freedom riders at the Greyhound bus station in Shreveport. Her father, Clarence Byrd, was also the plaintiff in the 1952 voter registration case, *Byrd v. Brice*. This early activism inspired her to enroll in law school. She received her law degree in 1963 from Southern University Law Center in Baton Rouge. She was an attorney for Capital Area Legal Services in Baton Rouge from 1968 to 1971. Byrd had a 37-year career with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, serving in Washington, D.C., Atlanta, Georgia, and Birmingham, Alabama before retiring in 2008.¹

ROBERT L. CARTER (1917 - 2012)

Robert L. Carter was born in Caryville, Florida. When he was six weeks old, his mother took him and his siblings to live in Newark, New Jersey, where his father worked. His father died within a year of their arrival. Carter obtained his bachelor's degree from Lincoln University in Pennsylvania, and his LL.B. from Howard University Law School in 1940. He earned a LL.M. degree from Columbia University Law School in 1941. In 1944, Carter worked as a legal assistant to Thurgood Marshall at the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. In 1956, Carter succeeded Marshall as general counsel. During his tenure at the Legal Defense Fund, he won twenty-one of twenty-two cases that he argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. In 1972, Carter was nominated by President Richard Nixon, and confirmed by the United States Senate, to a judgeship on the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. He assumed senior status in 1986 and continued serving in that capacity until his death.

WILLIAM C. CHANCE, JR. (1917 - 1991)

William C. Chance practiced law in New York. In 1959, he joined with attorneys Nathan Mitchell and Ozro Thaddeus ("O.T.") Wells to form the law firm of Chance, Mitchell & Wells. The firm was one of the first minority law firms in the lower Manhattan court district and focused on criminal defense.

LEROY D. CLARK (1934 -)

Leroy D. Clark was born April 27, 1934 in New York City. He received a B.A. from City College of New York in 1956 and an LL.B. from Columbia University School of Law in 1961. From 1961 to 1962, Clark was staff counsel with the State of New York Attorney General's Office. From 1962 to 1968, he was assistant counsel with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc. In 1968, he joined the faculty of New York University Law School, where he taught until being tapped by President Jimmy Carter, in 1979, to serve a four year term as General Counsel of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Clark stepped down from the EEOC in 1981 to resume his career as an educator. He joined the faculty at Catholic University Columbus School of Law, teaching Labor Law, Employment Discrimination, and Criminal Law and Procedure until his retirement in 2006.

¹ Dr. Rachel Emanuel and Carla Ball, *The Campus History Series*, Southern University Law Center (Arcadia Publishing, 2018).

ALGERNON JOHNSON COOPER, JR. (1944 -)

Algernon Johnson (“A.J.” or “Jay”) Cooper, Jr. was born in Mobile, Alabama. His father ran the family-owned Christian Burial Insurance Company. Cooper enrolled in the Marmion Military Academy in Aurora, Illinois for high school in 1958, becoming the first African American student to attend the Academy. He graduated in 1962 and, following his two older brothers, enrolled in the University of Notre Dame, graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1966. He was accepted into New York University School of Law. While in law school, he played a significant role in the founding of Black legal organization focused on the viability of the Black community and the Black legal profession. Cooper founded the Black American Law Students Association in 1967-1968 as well as participated in the founding of NCBL. After earning his law degree, he returned to Alabama and became a successful civil rights lawyer and litigator. In 1972, Cooper was elected mayor of Pritchard, Alabama, a city of some 50,000 citizens. He was the first Black candidate to defeat a White incumbent in the state of Alabama. As mayor, he founded and served as the first president of the National Conference of Black Mayors. After serving two terms as mayor, Cooper was appointed Director of the Department of Housing and Urban Development’s Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business. Thereafter, he filled positions as director of the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation, staff member of the House Ways and Means Committee, and Chief of Staff and Tax Counsel to Congressman Harold Ford. In 1988, Cooper left Congress for private practice. He now resides in Fairhope, Alabama and has opened a new firm, CooperLaw, in Daphne, Ala., specializing in litigation.

GEORGE DONALD COVINGTON (---- - ----)

George Donald Covington, now deceased, graduated from Brooklyn Law School. He was admitted to the practice of law in the State of New York in 1956. He was active in New York politics and served as a judge on the New York State Supreme Court.

H.B. DANIELS (---- - ----)

H.B. Daniels lived in Arizona and served in World War II with the Army Air Corps. He earned three degrees at the University of Arizona, including a law degree. In 1952, Daniels was the only Black attorney on a team of three attorneys that filed suit in Superior Court against segregated high schools in Maricopa County, Arizona. The court declared that “a half century of intolerance is enough,” and the high schools were desegregated the following year. The court subsequently ordered the desegregation of grade schools as well. Shortly thereafter, in 1954, the U.S. Supreme Court’s decision in *Brown v. Board of Education* made school desegregation the law of the land. In 1965, Daniels was appointed a relief judge in the Phoenix city courts, becoming the first Black person to serve as judge in any court in the state.²

GORDON J. DAVIS (1941 -)

Gordon J. Davis was born in Chicago, Illinois. His parents were trained social anthropologists who collaborated on groundbreaking social-anthropological studies of caste and class in the American South in the 1930s and 1940s. Davis enrolled in Williams College in Massachusetts graduating in 1963. After graduate studies at Columbia University from 1963 to 1964, Davis entered Harvard Law School, obtaining his law degree in 1967. While at Harvard, he co-

1963 and joined with friends to form the law firm Worrel, Miller, Whitaker & Niles. Niles left the firm to start a solo practice. In 1982, Gov. Jerry Brown appointed him to the Municipal Court. Niles was assigned to sit on the Superior Court and, in 1998, he was elected to a seat on that court. He retired in 2002.¹⁰

ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON (1937 -)

Eleanor Holmes Norton was born in Washington, D.C. She received her Bachelor’s degree from Antioch College in 1960, a Master’s degree from Yale University in 1963, and her LL.B from Yale Law School in 1964. After graduating from law school, Norton became a law clerk to Federal District Court Judge A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. At the end of her clerkship, she served as an assistant legal director of the American Civil Liberties Union, a position she held until 1970, when Mayor John Lindsay appointed her to head the New York City Human Rights Commission. As head of that agency, she held the first hearings in the country on discrimination against women. Later, she was appointed by President Jimmy Carter as the first female chair of the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Norton was elected in 1990 as the Washington, D.C. delegate to the House of Representatives, where she continues to serve. Norton is a tenured Professor of Law at Georgetown University. She teaches an upper-class seminar at Georgetown.

JEANUS PARKS JR. (1929 - 2018)

Jeanus B. Parks, Jr. was born in Washington, D.C. Parks attended Howard University from 1947 to 1950. In 1951, he was drafted into the U.S. Army where he served for two years. Upon his discharge in 1952, he re-entered Howard University School of Law, graduating in 1953. While attending Howard, Parks organized and served as the first Editor-in-Chief of the Howard Law Journal. After admission to the District of Columbia Bar in 1956, he worked in the Federal Government as a trial attorney in the Office of the General Counsel, Housing and Home Finance Agency (now HUD). He resigned from the Housing Agency in 1959 and entered Columbia University Law School where he earned a LL.M in 1960. Upon graduation, he returned briefly to the Housing Agency before being invited to join the Howard University School of Law faculty. In March 1965, Parks was granted a leave of absence from Howard to serve as Executive Director of the District of Columbia’s Neighborhood Legal Services Program. In August 1969, he was drafted by the United Planning Organization’s Board of Trustees to become its third Executive Director. Parks returned to full-time teaching duties at Howard University School of Law in September 1973. After 34 years of service, Parks retired from Howard in 1994, but his legal career continued for another decade, during which time he served as Chairman of the Board of Directors of Independence Federal Savings Bank until it merged into Colombo Bank.

BASIL ALEXANDER PATERSON (1926 - 2014)

Basil Alexander Paterson was born in Harlem, New York. In 1942, at the age of 16, he enrolled in St. John’s University. His studies were interrupted by World War II. He served two years in the U.S. Army before returning to St. John’s, graduating with a B.S. in 1948. He then enrolled in St. John’s University Law School, receiving a Juris Doctor degree in 1951. After graduating from law school, Paterson became involved in politics and joined the Democratic Party. From

² *Jet*, April 15, 1965.

¹⁰ https://prabook.com/web/alban_isaac.niles/916255

NATHAN H. MITCHELL (---- - ----)

Nathan H. Mitchell practiced law in New York. In 1959, he joined with attorneys William C. Chance and Ozro Thaddeus (“O.T.”) Wells and formed Chance, Mitchell & Wells, one of the first minority law firms in the lower Manhattan court district. The firm’s primary practice was criminal defense. In the early 1980s, Mitchell served on the Board of Trustees of Lane College in Jackson, Tennessee.

DION G. MORROW (1932 -)

Dion G. Morrow is a lifelong resident of Los Angeles, California. He received his undergraduate degree from George Pepperdine College and his law degree from Loyola University School of Law in Los Angeles in 1957. Morrow began his legal career in 1957 practicing law in the South Central neighborhoods of Los Angeles. He practiced law for 16 years before moving to the Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office in October 1973. In 1975, Morrow was appointed to the Compton Judicial District by Governor Jerry Brown. Two years later, Gov. Brown appointed him to the Los Angeles Superior Court. His early years on the bench were spent in the criminal court before being assigned to the central district civil court in 1987. He retired from the bench in 1995. Morrow is now an Employment Law Specialist with Alternative Resolution Centers where he has built an active mediation and arbitration practice.

ARCHIBALD R. MURRAY (1933 - 2001)

Archibald R. Murray was born in Barbados. He immigrated to the United States in 1950, earning his Bachelor’s degree from Howard University in 1954 and a Bachelor of Laws (LL.B) degree from Fordham University School of Law in 1960. Upon graduation from law school, Murray became an assistant district attorney in Manhattan, New York. In 1962, he became assistant counsel to Gov. Nelson A. Rockefeller. Murray went into the private practice of law in New York in 1965 and in 1967 he became counsel to the New York State Crime Control Council. Murray was appointed a Commissioner of the State of New York’s Division of Criminal Justice Services in 1972, serving to 1974. In 1975, he joined the Legal Aid Society, serving as Attorney-in-Chief and Executive Director until 1994. He became Chairman of the Legal Aid Society Board and served in that capacity until 1998. Murray was the first African-American president of the New York State Bar Association and the second African-American chairman of the executive committee of the New York City Bar Association.

GORDON JULIAN MYATT, SR. (1928 - 2016)

Gordon Julian Myatt, Sr. was a resident of Tampa, Florida at the time of his death. He served as an administrative law judge for both the Department of Labor and the National Labor Relations Board.

ALBAN I. NILES (1933 -)

Alban I. Niles was born in St. Vincent, British West Indies. He came to the United States at age 16, living in New York with his merchant seaman father. He joined the Air Force where he began his college education and trained as a dental technician. He was discharged in 1955, moving to Los Angeles to live with his father. Niles obtained his undergraduate degree from UCLA in 1959, passed the certified public accountant examination, worked for the State Corporations Division, and joined Ernst & Ernst in 1963, becoming one of the first Black accountants to work for a “Big Eight” firm in the city. He earned his law degree from UCLA in

founded the Harvard Law School Black Law Students Association and was an early contributor to the newly established Harvard Civil Rights-Civil Liberties Law Review. After graduating from law school Davis moved New York City. He served as a special assistant to Mayor John V. Lindsay and secretary of the Mayor’s Cabinet. In 1973, Lindsay appointed Davis a commissioner of the New York City Planning Commission. In January 1978, he was appointed by Mayor Edward Koch as Commissioner of Parks and Recreation, and is widely credited with reviving and restoring New York’s parks after the city’s fiscal collapse. Davis was a key member of Mayor David Dinkins’ transition committee and later served as chair of Mayor Michael Bloomberg’s 2001-2002 criminal justice transition committee. Since 2012, he has been a partner in the New York office of Venable LLP.

LORENZO DAVIS (---- - ----)

Lorenzo Davis practiced law in New York. He was an ardent advocate for the Black legal profession. He urged Black citizens who needed legal services to hire Black lawyers instead of reflexively turning to White lawyers. He also urged Black lawyers to refer legal matters they could not handle to other Black lawyers.³

SURREY EDWARD DAVIS, SR. (1914 - 1979)

Surrey Edward Davis was born in Leggett, Polk County, Texas. Davis was a Justice of the Peace in Houston, Harris County, Texas at the time of his death.⁴

CHARLES E. DONEGAN (1933 - 2018)

Charles Donegan was born in Chicago, Illinois. He graduated from Wilson City Junior College (1952), Roosevelt University (1954), and Loyola University (1959). He received a J.D. from Howard University Law School in 1967, and a LL.M. from Columbia University Law School in 1970. Donegan was an accomplished attorney, specializing in arbitration, and an educator, helping to raise the bar passage rate at law schools where he taught.⁵

ELRICH ALLAN EASTMAN (1923 - 2010)

Erich Allan Eastman was born in Washington, D.C. He obtained his bachelor’s degree in 1944 and his bachelor of law degree in 1946 from New York University. Eastman was a New York State Family Court judge at the time of his death.⁶

LOLIS EDWARD ELIE (c.1928 - 2017)

Lolis Edward Elie was born and raised in New Orleans, Louisiana. He maintained that he was born in January 1930, though his birth certificate says he was born in 1928. He served in the United States Army and after he was discharged he enrolled at Howard University, transferring to Dillard University in New Orleans where he earned a Bachelor’s degree. Elie helped organize a student chapter of the NAACP while at Dillard. He received his law degree from Loyola

³ *Jet*, at 16-17, June 19, 1969.

⁴ *Jet*, Mar. 11, 1985; <https://www.findagrave.com/memorial/183177481/surrey-edward-davis>.

⁵ Washington Bar Association, <https://mailchi.mp/7f6d8b743978/ollie-may-cooper-howard-reminder-...>

⁶ https://prabook.com/web/elrich_allan.eastman/391579

University New Orleans College of Law in 1959. He opened the law firm Collins, Douglas & Elie, with Loyola classmate Nils Douglas and Robert Collins, a graduate of Louisiana State University School of Law. During the 50 years that he practiced law, Elie was central to Louisiana's civil rights movement. His clients included freedom riders protesting segregation at bus stations across the South, the Deacons of Defense, civil rights protesters in Plaquemine and other cities, and members of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE) in New Orleans. He also represented Ernest "Dutch" Morial when Morial ran for a state legislative seat in 1967 and an opponent questioned his residency within the district. Morial would become New Orleans' first African American mayor.

CHAUNCEY ESKRIDGE (1918 - 1988)

Chauncey Eskridge was a 1939 graduate of Tuskegee Institute in Alabama. During World War II, he served as a spotter pilot flying Piper Cubs in Italy. He graduated from John Marshall Law School in Chicago in 1949. Eskridge was involved in many civil rights cases throughout the 1960s, acting as attorney for the Chicago branch of the NAACP and as legal counsel for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC). He represented the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. before the 5th U.S. Court of Appeals in *City of Memphis v. Martin Luther King, Jr.* Eskridge was in the Memphis hotel room with Rev. King when King was fatally shot on the balcony, April 4, 1968. Eskridge also represented Muhammad Ali in a number of legal matters. Most notably, he argued on behalf of Ali (then Cassius Clay) before the U.S. Supreme Court in *Clay v. United States*, successfully overturning Ali's conviction in 1967 for refusing to report for induction into the U. S. Army during the Vietnam War. Eskridge was elected an associate judge of the Cook County Circuit Court in 1981 and served until his retirement in 1986.⁷

DORSEY EVANS (---- - 2010)

Dorsey Evans practiced law in the Washington, D.C. area. He is noted for representing Frank Wills, the Black security guard who discovered the break-in of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) headquarters at the Watergate office complex in Washington, D.C. on June 17, 1972.

HENRY WADSWORTH FLOYD, SR. (1928 - 1995)

Henry Wadsworth Floyd, Sr. was born in Eufaula, Oklahoma. He enlisted in the Army in 1946 after graduating from high school. Following his honorable discharge in 1947, Floyd enrolled in Langston University and received a B.A. degree in 1950. He received a Master's degree in political science from Oklahoma State University in 1952. Floyd enrolled in Oklahoma City University Law School and received his law degree in 1963. In the early 1950s, Floyd was actively involved in civil and human rights work. After receiving his law degree he handled many civil rights cases *pro bono*. A lifetime member of the NAACP, Floyd served as President of the Oklahoma City Branch and established local chapters throughout Oklahoma. During his presidency, Floyd participated in numerous civil rights marches, including the March on Washington in 1963, and the march from Selma to Montgomery in 1965.

in 1990. In 1994, when Wilder's administration ended, Martin became a consultant to the governor of North Carolina on African trade. Her career also included serving as a member of Virginia's State Council on Higher Education and as chairwoman of the Port of Richmond.

LOLA MARIE MCALPIN-GRANT (---- - ----)

Lola Marie McAlpin-Grant received her undergraduate degree from Mount St. Mary's College in Los Angeles. She obtained her law degree from Loyola Law School in Los Angeles. She was admitted to the practice of law in California in 1967.

FLOYD BIXLER MCKISSICK (1922 - 1991)

Floyd Bixler McKissick was born in Asheville, North Carolina. He entered Morehouse College in Atlanta in 1940 before joining the U.S. Army where he served in Europe during World War II. He returned to Morehouse after the war and became actively involved in CORE and the NAACP, participating in the first freedom riders campaign. After graduating from Morehouse in 1948, McKissick applied to the all-White University of North Carolina (UNC) School of Law but was rejected because of his race. He enrolled in North Carolina Central College Law School (NCC) and graduated in 1951. While at NCC, the NAACP filed a lawsuit on his behalf challenging his denial at UNC. McKissick was granted admission in 1951. Despite already having a law degree, McKissick and three other Black students enrolled in UNC Law School that summer. They were the first African Americans to graduate from that institution. In 1966, McKissick became president of CORE. He left CORE in 1968 to found Soul City, a model city project located in Warren County, North Carolina, funded by the Urban Growth and New Community Act as part of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. In 1990, McKissick was appointed a state district court judge in North Carolina by Gov. James G. Martin. He died less than a year later and is buried in Soul City.

PERCY ST. CLAIR MILLER (1934 - 2013)

Percy St. Clair Miller was born in New York City. He received his B.A. degree from City University of New York and a Juris Doctorate degree from St. John's University School of Law. Miller was Regional Solicitor for the U.S. Department of Labor until he retired.

ERNEST N. ("DUTCH") MORIAL (1929 - 1989)

Ernest N. ("Dutch") Morial was born in New Orleans, Louisiana. He graduated from Xavier University of Louisiana in 1951 and, in 1954, became the first African American to receive a law degree from Louisiana State University. Morial became a public figure in Louisiana as he engaged in litigation and other strategies to dismantle Jim Crow policies and practices in the state. He was the president of the New Orleans NAACP from 1962 to 1965, and in 1967 became the first African American elected to the Louisiana State Legislature since Reconstruction. In 1970, Morial became the first Black Juvenile Court judge in Louisiana and, in 1974, became the first African American elected to the Louisiana Fourth Circuit Court of Appeal. Morial was the first African American to be elected mayor of New Orleans. He served two terms, from 1977 to 1986.

⁷ *Jet*, Feb. 9, 1988; http://articles.chicagotribune.com/1988-01-19/news/8803230464_1_c...

CHESTER I. LEWIS (---- - 1990)

Chester Lewis was born in Hutchinson, Kansas. His father was editor of the African-American newspaper *The Hutchinson Blade*, which attacked local practices of racial segregation. His mother was a teacher and founder of the Delta chapter of the Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority at the University of Kansas in 1916. Lewis received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of Kansas. Lewis served as the president of the Wichita Chapter of the NAACP. In 1962, he was among the leaders of the "Young Turks," a national movement within the NAACP that sought to shift the organization's traditional focus of seeking change through court action and legislation to include strategies of non-violent protest and direct action.

CONRAD J. LYNN (1908 - 1995)

Conrad Lynn was born in Newport, Rhode Island. He grew up in Rockville Center, Long Island, New York. In 1932 he became the first African American to graduate from Syracuse University Law School. Lynn was a member of the Communist Party in the late 1920s. He was also part of the earliest Freedom Riders that road buses to the South to protest Jim Crow laws in the 1940s. In the early 1940s, Lynn represented his own brother who refused to be drafted because they opposed the Army's segregationist policies. Lynn also represented Puerto Rican "Independencistas" who wanted their island to be free from the United States colonialism. In the 1960s, Lynn represented conscientious objectors to the Vietnam War before the U.S. Supreme Court. He also defended many Black activists of that era, including Black Panther Party member H. Rap Brown. Lynn continued practicing law until a few months before his death in 1985.

STANLEY R. MALONE, JR. (1924 - 2000)

Stanley R. Malone, Jr. was born in Washington, D.C. He attended the University of Southern California before serving in the Army in Italy during World War II. Upon his discharge he enrolled in Howard University to complete his undergraduate education. He attended Southwestern University School of Law in Los Angeles and earned his law degree. In the 1950s, Malone was a grievance attorney for the NAACP. In that capacity, Malone filed legal actions to integrate the Los Angeles Fire Department and integrate Pasadena schools. He also served as appellate counsel and prepared appellate briefs that helped to strike down a California initiative permitting restrictive housing. Malone was head of the Langston Law Club, a Black lawyers association, from 1964 to 1969. Malone and members of the Club, volunteered to defend indigents charged with crimes stemming from the 1965 Watts riots. He was also a board member of the Los Angeles County Bar Association and the Western Center on Law and Poverty, and served as president of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Legal Services. Malone was one of Gov. Jerry Brown's first four appointments to the Superior Court in 1975. He served 16 years on the bench.

RUBY GRANT MARTIN (1933 - 2003)

Ruby Grant Martin was born in rural Arkansas. Her family moved to Cleveland, Ohio when she was nine. She received her undergraduate degree from Fisk University in 1956, and her law degree from Howard University School of Law in 1959. She was president of her law school class and valedictorian of her graduating class. Martin became a staff attorney for the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights in 1960. In 1967, she became the first director of the Office for Civil Rights in the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Gov. L. Douglas Wilder, her former law school classmate, appointed Martin to be Virginia's Secretary of Administration

TERRY A. FRANCOIS (1921 - 1989)

Terry A. Francois was born in Louisiana. He served in the Marines during World War II, pursuing higher education after his discharge. He received a Bachelor's degree from Xavier University in New Orleans and a Master's degree in Business Administration from Atlanta University. In the late 1940s, Francois moved to San Francisco and enrolled in the University of California Hastings College of Law, graduating in 1949. Francois filed suits against discrimination in housing, jobs, and education as a lawyer for the local chapter of the NAACP. He also fought for the appointment of Blacks to political office. He was actively involved in successful efforts to strike down the San Francisco Housing Authority's discriminatory housing policies and efforts that led to the hiring of the first African-American workers at that city's Sheraton-Palace Hotel. In 1964, Francois was appointed by the mayor of San Francisco to a seat on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors, a seat he held for the next 13 years. After retiring from his supervisor seat, Francois continued working in the private practice of law until his death.

GARY D. GAYTON (1933 -)

Gary David Gayton was born in Seattle, Washington. His ancestors were some of the earliest African Americans to settle in the city. He excelled athletically and academically in high school and earned a scholarship to the University of Washington where he received a B.A. with honors in political science in 1955. After graduation he served for two years in the Army. In 1962, Gayton received a LL.B. degree from Gonzaga University School of Law. Later that same year he was appointed by Attorney General Robert Kennedy to be an Assistant U.S. Attorney in Washington, becoming the first African American to fill that position. He served in that position for three years and left to form the law firm Stern, Gayton, Neubauer, and Brucker. He specialized in civil rights law, representing members of oppressed groups including African Americans, Native Americans, and women. His clients included the Black Panthers and activists opposing the Vietnam War. In 1977, Gayton was appointed Special Assistant to Brock Adams, U.S. Secretary of Transportation. He developed an affirmative action program for the Department of Transportation and wrote guidelines for minority and women-owned business programs, which were adopted by the Carter Administration in 1978. Shortly thereafter, Gayton returned to Seattle where he continues to practice law.

LARRY S. GIBSON (1942 -)

Larry Gibson was born in Washington, D.C. Gibson graduated from Howard University with a B.A. degree in 1964 and received his law degree from Columbia University in 1967. From 1969 to 1975, Gibson served on the Baltimore City School Board. In 1972, he became the first African American law professor at the University of Virginia. In 1974, Gibson accepted a position at the University of Maryland School of Law as an associate professor and was promoted to full professor in 1977. He took a one year leave from the University of Maryland in 1977 and joined the Carter Administration as Associate Deputy Attorney General. An experienced political organizer, he managed Kurt L. Schmoke's successful campaigns for Mayor of Baltimore in 1987, 1991, and 1995. Gibson continues to teach law at the University of Maryland School of Law.

SIMON P. GOURDINE (1940 - 2012)

Simon P. Gourdine was a graduate of City College of New York and Fordham University Law School. He is best known as a basketball executive pioneer, beginning his career with the National Basketball Association as an attorney in 1970. In 1974, he was named second in command as Deputy Commissioner and Chief Operating Officer, making him the highest ranking Black executive in professional sports. In 1976, he helped create the free agency system that the league uses today. Gourdine retired from the NBA in 1981 but returned in 1990 as general counsel for the National Basketball Players Association. He was named executive director of the NBPA in 1995 and ended a lockout that year by brokering a \$5 billion deal between the athletes and the league. Gourdine's legal career covered many areas of law. He served as an Assistant United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, Commissioner of the city's Department of Consumer Affairs, corporate secretary to the Rockefeller Foundation, Director of Labor Relations for the Metropolitan Transit Authority, general counsel to the Board of Education, Deputy Commissioner of Trials for the New York Police Department, and Chairman of the city's Civil Service Commission.

FRED D. GRAY (1930 -)

Fred D. Gray was born in Montgomery, Alabama. He graduated from Alabama State University in 1951 and received his law degree from Case Western Reserve University in 1954. Gray began his career as a civil rights attorney when he was 24 years old. He represented Rosa Parks when she was arrested in 1955 for refusing to surrender her bus seat to a White passenger. Her arrest started the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Gray also represented Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and other protestors during the Boycott. He also was an attorney in a lawsuit challenging the segregation on the Montgomery buses, *Browder v. Gayle*, which was decided in the plaintiffs' favor. The Court ordered the integration of the buses in Montgomery. In 1970, Gray and another African American became the first African Americans elected to the Alabama State legislature since Reconstruction. Gray continues to practice law. A significant part of his practice continues to be in the field of civil rights. He is senior partner at the law firm of Gray, Langford, Sapp, McGowan, Gray & Nathanson, which has offices in Tuskegee and Montgomery, Alabama.

JEFF L. GREENUP (1919 - 2013)

Jeff L. Greenup was born in East Baton Rouge, Louisiana, growing up in New Orleans. He was drafted into the U.S. Army. After military service, Greenup moved to New York City where he attended Long Island University on the GI Bill. He received his B.S. degree in 1948. In 1951, Greenup earned his law degree from Brooklyn Law School and was admitted to the New York State Bar. He went into private practice and worked primarily in the area of litigation. Greenup spent six weeks during the summer of 1964 in St. Augustine, Florida, defending Dr. Martin Luther King and his followers. Over the years, he also represented the NAACP, CORE, and SNCC. Greenup served as legal counsel to the Harlem Urban Development Corporation during its entire existence and was elected as president of the New York Branch of the NAACP, serving consecutive terms. In 1984, he served as one of the founding members of the Metropolitan Black Bar Association, an organization determined to support minorities in the legal profession and advance equality and excellence.

C.B. KING (1924 - 1988)

C.B. King, who chose not to use his given name, Chevene, had a law firm in Albany, Georgia. He was well known for his legal acumen and was active in the Civil Rights Movement in the 1960s. King represented Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (no relation) and Rev. Ralph Abernathy when they were arrested in civil rights demonstrations in 1962. In 1970, he was an unsuccessful candidate for the Democratic nomination for governor of Georgia, becoming the first African American to run for the office since Reconstruction. He successfully represented Charlene Mitchell, Executive Director of the National Alliance Against Racist and Political Repression, and her husband Mike Welch, who were arrested on a train going through Georgia in the 1980s, and falsely accused of disorderly conduct and public intoxication. It is strongly believed that the arrest was made because they were an interracial couple. King served as Co-Chair of NCBL's Board in 1974.

CHRISTINE DENNIS LEFLORE (1945 -)

Christine Dennis LeFlore received her Bachelor's degree and Juris Doctorate from Howard University. She received her LL.M from Yale Law School. After law school she served as staff attorney with the Law Reform Unit of the Neighborhood Legal Services Program. She later served as an Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Economic Development at the United Planning Organization where she monitored legislation that affected community action agencies. LeFlore joined the law firm of Walls & Walls in the District of Columbia. Her practice consisted of personal injury, traffic defense, rent control, landlord-tenant, workers' compensation, employment, and general civil litigation.

WALTER J. LEONARD (1925 - 2015)

Walter J. Leonard was born in Alma, Georgia. He attended Savannah State College and Morehouse College, from which he received an undergraduate degree. He also received degrees from Atlanta University's Graduate School of Business, Howard University School of Law, and Harvard University Business School. Leonard served as Assistant Dean of both the Howard University School of Law (1968-69) and Harvard University Law School (1969-71). He is recognized as being responsible for the significant increase in students of color during his tenure as Assistant Dean and Assistant Director of Admissions at Harvard Law School. In 1971, Leonard was appointed Special Assistant to Harvard University's President, Derek Curtis Bok. Leonard was a primary drafter of the Harvard Plan, a blueprint for establishing equal educational and employment opportunities in higher education. The Plan was cited with approval by the United States Supreme Court in the *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke* and adopted by hundreds of colleges and universities nationwide. Leonard also chaired the committee that established Harvard University's W.E.B. DuBois Institute for Afro-American Research. He was appointed president of Fisk University in 1977. In 1978, he used a \$1.5 million insurance policy on his life as collateral to obtain a loan to keep the school from closing. Over the course of his seven year presidency, Leonard raised more than \$12 million for Fisk University. He served on the boards of the Ford Foundation and the United Negro College Fund and was a consultant to the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Commerce. He published numerous scholarly articles on such topics as the First Amendment, Black capitalism, the student protest movements in universities and affirmative action. Two fellowships were created at Oxford University in his honor.

massive voter registration drives throughout the South. In 1964, he was selected to be Director for the Southern Regional Council's Voter Education Project. Jordan was chosen by President Lyndon Johnson to participate in Johnson's Civil Rights Conference. In 1970, Jordan became Director of the United Negro College Fund. Under his leadership the organization raised \$10,000,000 for scholarships for African Americans. From 1972 to 1981, he served as President of the National Urban League. During his tenure the organization's budget tripled. In 1980 the Urban League launched the State of Black America Reports. This report is an extensively researched annual publication that provides statistical data and analysis of the social and economic status of Black Americans. Jordan resigned from the Urban League in 1980. He joined the Washington, D.C. law firm of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer, and Feld, and is still a partner with the firm. In 1992, Jordan was chosen by President-elect Clinton to lead his transition team. Jordan later served as an advisor to President Clinton.

LEROY B. KELLAM (1919- 1995)

Leroy B. Kellam was born in Pinnacle, North Carolina. He received an undergraduate degree from West Virginia State College Institute in 1941 and a law degree from Brooklyn Law School in 1961. He opened a private law practice in Queens, New York and helped to found the Macon B. Allen Black Bar Association, which is named after the first Black lawyer admitted to the bar in Maine, in 1854. In 1979, Kellam was appointed to the New York City Criminal Court by Mayor Edward Koch. In 1982, he was elected to the New York State Supreme Court. Kellam retired in 1988 and returned home to Pinnacle.

CHARLES KELLAR (1909 - 2002)

Charles Kellar was born in Barbados. He and his family moved to Brooklyn, New York in 1921. Kellar graduated from City College of New York and obtained his law degree from St. John's University Law School. He began his legal career in the 1930s in New York where he successfully litigated a number of police brutality cases. He also had a criminal defense and appellate practice and obtained reversals of death penalty convictions of Black defendants. He served as President of the Brooklyn chapter of the NAACP in the 1950s until moving to Las Vegas in 1959. He was a real estate broker in Las Vegas while fighting with the Nevada Bar Examiners to obtain a Nevada law license. Although he took the Nevada bar exam in 1960, his name did not appear on the posted test results. He sued the Nevada Board of Bar Examiners and, in 1965, won the action in the Nevada Supreme Court. After securing his license to practice law, Kellar filed lawsuits that led to the desegregation of Las Vegas schools and overturned local ordinances, reminiscent of the Black Codes, that allowed police to arrest Blacks who could not prove employment simply for walking on the streets of West Las Vegas or gathered in groups of three or more. As chief legal consultant for the NAACP, Kellar helped bring about the accord of March 26, 1960 that allowed African Americans to be guests in resorts on the Las Vegas Strip. In 1999, Kellar commented to the Las Vegas Sun, "Having a cause to fight for gives you a purpose, and having a purpose – a vision to accomplish something – is so important. That's what kept me going."⁹

⁹ <https://lasvegassun.com/news/2002/jul/10/civil-righrs-leader-kellar-dies-at-93/>

JOHN DeWITT GREGORY (---- -)

John DeWitt Gregory is Distinguished Professor Emeritus of Law, and former vice dean, at Hofstra University School of Law. He received his A.B. degree from Howard University in 1952. He joined the U.S. Air Force, serving until 1955. Upon his discharge, Gregory entered Harvard Law School, obtaining his J.D. degree in 1959. He worked in the private practice of law for a few years in New York City, including in Harlem. Gregory then began working in the public sector as an attorney, serving as an assistant attorney general in the Litigation Bureau of the New York State Department of Law. He then became an Assistant to the Commissioner for Departmental Legal Affairs in the Nassau County Department of Public Welfare and later served as Executive Director of Nassau Law Services, Inc. Gregory is also the former General Counsel and Executive Director of New York City's Community Action for Legal Services, Inc., the largest legal services program in the nation. Gregory is a law professor teaching primarily in the areas of matrimonial and family law.

WILLIAM L. HARRIS, JR. (1925 - 2006)

William L. Harris was born in Horton, Kansas. He was a combat veteran of World War II. He received a B.S. degree from Washburn University, a M.S. degree from the University of Kansas, and a J.D. degree from Washburn University School of Law. After receiving his law degree, Harris was involved in a number of civil rights cases. He also served as the Assistant City Attorney in Topeka, Kansas and the General Counsel of the Kansas Department of Revenue. In 1976, he moved to Washington, D.C. where he worked as an attorney at the United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He retired in 1996.

ARNETT HARTSFIELD, JR. (---- - 2014)

Arnett Hartsfield, Jr. was born in Bellingham, Washington. His family moved to California in 1929. He joined the Los Angeles Fire Department (LAFD) in 1940, serving in one of the city's two all-Black stations. He was commissioned in the Army as an infantry lieutenant, assigned to a segregated unit. After the war, he returned to the LAFD. He used the GI Bill to go back to school, receiving an undergraduate degree from UCLA and a law degree from USC Law School in 1955. Despite having these two degrees, he was denied promotions in the fire department. The LAFD was ordered to desegregate in 1955. Hartsfield was one of 80 Black firefighters sent to all-White stations. He kept a record of the indignities and hostile treatment he received, chronically these in "The Old Stentorians," which he co-wrote with Billy Mills and published in 1973. Hartsfield retired from the LAFD in 1961 and began practicing law full time taking primarily cases that dealt with injustice and inequality. Hartsfield was unable to earn a living practicing law full-time because he often represented clients *pro bono*. He became an educator to supplement his law practice income, teaching Black Studies at California State Long Beach and other campuses.

MELVYN DOUGLAS HAYWOODE (---- - ----)

Melvyn Douglas Haywoode received his law degree from Brooklyn Law School. He was admitted to the practice of law in New York State in 1962.

WALTER S. HOUSTON, JR. (---- - ----)

Walter Scott Houston, Jr. was born in Cincinnati, Ohio. His parents were prosperous business people who owned several properties, including a cigar booth, a grocery store, and an undertaking business. Houston obtained a law degree and practiced law in Cincinnati. He dedicated his legal skills to the Black legal profession and its commitment to the Black community. In 1973, he and other Black attorneys in Hamilton County, Ohio, the County seat for Cincinnati, held meetings to discuss the need for a viable legal organization 'for the purpose of improving the quality of service, economics and influence of Black attorneys in the Hamilton County area.'⁸ The meetings culminated in the founding of the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati (BLAC). Houston was elected as an at-large member of the Executive Committee.

GEORGE HOWARD, JR. (1924 - 2007)

George Howard, Jr. was born in Pine Bluff, Arkansas. He enlisted with the U.S. Navy during World War II. After the war he returned to Pine Bluff, graduated high school and enrolled in Lincoln University in Missouri in 1948. In 1950 the University of Arkansas in Fayetteville ended its racially discriminatory admissions policies and Howard enrolled in that university. He graduated in 1954 with a B.A. degree and a Juris Doctorate. Howard returned to Pine Bluff and opened a law office. He soon became one of the city's civil rights leaders. Howard filed numerous discrimination suits, including against theaters, public accommodations, and school systems in various Arkansas counties. He also addressed inequalities relating to jury composition and the use of the death penalty in the criminal justice system. Howard served as president of the State Council of Branches for the NAACP. He was highly respected as a lawyer throughout Arkansas for his keen legal mind and commitment to racial equality and justice. In 1969, Governor Winthrop Rockefeller appointed him to the Arkansas State Claims Commission. In 1977, Governor David Pryor named him to the Arkansas Supreme Court, on which he served until 1979 when Governor Bill Clinton appointed him to the newly created Arkansas Court of Appeals. The following year, President Jimmy Carter nominated him to become a federal district court judge for the Eastern District of Arkansas in Little Rock. He was confirmed by the United States Senate and remained a judge in the Eastern District of Arkansas, until his death in 2007.

SAMUEL CHARLES JACKSON (1929 - 1982)

Samuel Charles Jackson was born and raised in Kansas City, Kansas. Upon earning his law degree from Washburn University Law School in 1954, Jackson served as Deputy General Counsel of the Kansas State Department of Social Welfare where he worked on many civil rights cases. He left this position and engaged in the private practice of law until 1965 in Topeka, Kansas where, in addition to the practice of law, he was an active member of the NAACP, involved on both the local and national level. He served as the Topeka NAACP Branch president in the 1960s. In 1965, Jackson was one of five people appointed by President Lyndon Johnson to serve as commissioners on the newly created U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. He served three years, leaving to become vice president of the American Arbitration Association and director of its Center for Dispute Settlement. In 1969, President Richard Nixon appointed Jackson Assistant Secretary of the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. In this role, he focused on the provision of quality housing.

⁸ <http://nkaa.uky.edu/nkaa/items/show/2694>; <http://cincyblac.org/history.1asso>

Jackson returned to private practice in 1973, specializing in corporate law. He continued to promote the participation of African Americans in politics by founding the Republican Party's Council of 100. In 1981, President Ronald Reagan appointed him to the Commission on Housing, which re-examined federal housing policy.

TIMOTHY L. JENKINS (1938 -)

Timothy L. Jenkins was born and raised in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from Howard University and his Juris Doctor degree from Yale University Law School. Jenkins was a founding member of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC). He played a significant role in shaping SNCC's voting rights work. Jenkins served as its chief lobbyist for five years, lobbying for, among other things, the passage of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Jenkins is the former publisher of the Smithsonian's *American Visions* magazine. He served as the interim president of the University of the District of Columbia and was the founder of international management firms, The MATCH Institution and the Near East Division of the Development Assistance Corporation, which is devoted to Third World economic and management solutions. Jenkins served as Professor of Administrative Law at Howard University School of Law. He was voted an Outstanding Professor of Law at Howard. He also served on the Howard University Board of Trustees. Jenkins was instrumental in creating the first all-Black on-line forum on the Internet and has served on the board of directors of National Instructional Television, with an interstate network of FCC licenses. Jenkins is currently Chairman of the Board of Unlimited Visions, Inc. Multi Media Information Technology. He served as National Co-Chair of NCBL in 1974 and is currently an active member of the NCBLDC Chapter.

LOUIS CLAYTON JONES (1935 - 2006)

Louis Clayton Jones was born in Lexington, Kentucky. He was awarded a full academic scholarship by Howard University from which he graduated summa cum laude in 1957. In 1958, Jones entered Yale Law School and graduated in 1961. He returned to Kentucky and served as Assistant Director of the newly formed Kentucky Commission on Human Rights. He was responsible for drafting that body's Complaint and Compliance Procedures. Jones moved to New York City where he practiced law from 1962 to 1986. During those years, Jones represented a number of international clients, including the Republic of Liberia and Saudi Arabian businesses. He also played a prominent role in a highly publicized police brutality case as counsel to the family of a 25-year old Black man who died while in the custody of White transit police officers. After engaging in business enterprises for a number of years, Jones retired from business and the practice of law, and devoted his time to a quarterly journal he edited, *The African Century*.

VERNON EULION JORDAN, JR. (1935 -)

Vernon Eulion Jordan was born in Atlanta, Georgia. In 1953, he enrolled in DePauw University in Greencastle, Indiana, where he was the only African American in his class. Jordan excelled at basketball and played for DePauw until his graduation in 1957. Jordan went on to law school at Howard University School of Law, obtaining his J. D. degree in 1960. He returned to Georgia and began the private practice of law with a focus on civil rights. In 1961, Jordan was appointed Field Secretary for the Georgia chapter of the NAACP, where he organized boycotts of local businesses that refused to hire African Americans, engaged in fund raising campaigns, and led