

CELEBRATING DIVERSITY

Black History Month, February 2014



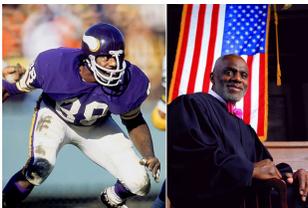
In February 2014, in honor of Black History Month and as part of its Diversity Program, the 3L+ team undertook a project to learn about and honor one amazing African American attorney a day on its Facebook and Twitter pages. What started as a social media project, became the highlight of the team's day. From abolition to the civil rights era to today, 3L+ immensely enjoyed learning about many inspiring African American attorneys—too many to fit into a 28 day month. We have compiled this year's list of 28 amazing attorneys here, but we look forward to continuing the conversation and honoring more amazing attorneys in the years to come. 3L+ is honored to have celebrated diversity with you this February, and we welcome your suggestions for future honorees and diversity projects.



John Rock (1825-1866) was the first African American lawyer to be admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, and the first African American man to earn a medical degree. Having mastered several professions, Rock was, in the view of his colleagues, one of the ablest and most educated men of his time.



Charlotte E. Ray (1850-1911) was the first African American female lawyer in the U.S. and the first woman admitted to the DC Bar. Due to great racial and gender odds against her, she was unable to attract many clients and forced to close her practice. She then became a teacher, joined the National Association of Colored Women, and championed a number of social causes, inspiring countless women to reach for their goals.



Hon. Alan Page is an associate justice of the Minnesota Supreme Court, the first African American to ever serve on that court. A former defensive tackle for the Minnesota Vikings and later the Chicago Bears, Hon. Page is also a member of the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Among numerous other accolades, his football career included four Super Bowls.



Thurgood Marshall (1908-1993) was the first African American justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. His most famous victory as a lawyer was *Brown v. Board of Education*, a decision that desegregated public schools. Justice Marshall was also the founder and first Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund. "In recognizing the humanity of our fellow beings, we pay ourselves the highest tribute."



Barbara Jordan (1936-1996), recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, was a leader of the Civil Rights movement and the first African American elected to the Texas Senate after reconstruction. A graduate of Boston University Law School and a skilled orator, she was also the first African-American woman to deliver the keynote address at a Democratic National Convention, recognized by American Rhetoric as one of the top five speeches of all time.



Johnnie Cochran (1937-2005) was a skilled and brilliant trial attorney, inducted into the American College of Trial Lawyers, an organization whose membership consists of the top one percent of U.S. trial lawyers in the United States. Before his notoriety for the O.J. case, he was well known for his successful advocacy in police brutality and civil rights cases. “Jurors want courtroom lawyers to have some compassion and be nice.”



Dr. King (left) & Fred Gray (right)

Fred Gray, born in 1930, is a prominent civil rights attorney and the first African American president of the Alabama State Bar. He handled a number of key cases in the Civil Rights Movement, notably defending Rosa Parks and Claudette Colvin against charges of disorderly conduct for refusing to give up their seats during the Montgomery Bus Boycott. Mr. Gray was also instrumental in successfully seeking justice for the victims of the Tuskegee Syphilis Study, a clinical experiment conducted for forty years to study the natural progression of untreated syphilis in African American men who thought they were receiving free health care.



Marian Wright Edelman, born in 1939, is the founder and president of Children’s Defense Fund, a voice for poor, minority, and disabled children. A graduate of Yale Law School, she was the first African American woman admitted to the Mississippi Bar. In 2000, Ms. Edelman received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation’s highest civilian award, and the Robert F. Kennedy Lifetime Achievement Award for her writings.



Percy Sutton (left) & Malcom X (right)

Percy Sutton (1920-2009) was a civil rights lawyer, politician, and business leader. Mr. Sutton attended Columbia Law School and Brooklyn Law School, and became one of America’s best-known lawyers during the 1950s and 1960s, representing Malcolm X and other civil rights activists. Mr. Sutton was also the longest-serving Manhattan borough president, and thus the highest-ranking African American elected official in New York City for more than a decade. An astute entrepreneur, Mr. Sutton’s investments included the Harlem’s landmark Apollo Theater.



Hon. Jane Bolin (1908-2007) was the first African American woman to become a judge in the U.S. when she was sworn into the bench of the New York City Domestic Relations Court in 1939. She was also the first African American woman to graduate from Yale Law School and join the New York City Bar Association. As a family court judge, Hon. Bolin ended the placement of children in child-care agencies on the basis of ethnic background. An activist for children's rights and education, she chose not to wear judicial robes in order to make children feel more comfortable.



Hon. Dennis Archer, born in 1942, is a former justice of the Michigan Supreme Court and a former mayor of Detroit. Hon. Archer earned his law degree from the Detroit College of Law, now Michigan State University Detroit College of Law. In 2003, he became the first African American president of the American Bar Association, which until 1943 had excluded African American lawyers from its membership. The ABA has taken significant steps to address diversity issues in the legal profession through the ABA Commission on Racial and Ethnic Diversity and other initiatives.



Lani Guinier, born in 1950, is a lawyer, scholar, and civil rights activist. In 2008, she became the first woman of color appointed to a tenured professorship at Harvard Law School. In her scholarly work, Professor Guinier has addressed issues of race, gender, and democratic decision making, and proposed new ways of approaching questions like affirmative action. A graduate of Yale Law School, she has worked in the Civil Rights Division at the U.S. Department of Justice and also headed the voting rights project at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in the 1980s.



Scipio A. Jones (1863-1943) was a prominent African American attorney. He is most famous for the successful appeals of the Elaine 12, twelve black men who were sentenced to death for their participation in a race riot. The trials were marked by very short jury deliberations while a mob outside threatened to lynch the defendants if the jury did not sentence them to death. Mr. Jones saw the appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court and is credited as the author of the brief. His efforts ultimately contributed to the landmark decision in *Moore v. Dempsey*, providing for collateral attack through habeas corpus on a state appellate court decision, and granting new trials to the Elaine 12 defendants.



James Weldon Johnson (1871-1938) was a lawyer, author, poet, educator, diplomat, songwriter, and civil rights activist. Johnson is best remembered for his leadership within the NAACP, but was first known for his writing of poetry, novels, and anthologies. He was the first African American professor at NYU, teaching Creative Literature and Education, and taught at several schools during his lifetime. He was also the first African American admitted to the Florida Bar Exam after Reconstruction.



Michelle Obama is a lawyer, public figure, and the first African American First Lady of the U.S. She graduated from Princeton University and Harvard Law School, where she advocated for the hiring of minority professors and assisted low-income tenants with the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau. After law school, she was an associate at Sidley Austin. She also served in Chicago's city government, became the founding Executive Director for the Chicago office of Public Allies (an AmeriCorps program preparing youth for public service), was the Associate Dean of Student Services at the University of Chicago, and worked for the University of Chicago Hospitals as Vice President of Community and External Affairs. As First Lady, she has led several initiatives, including *Let's Move!* to fight childhood obesity.



Cecil Francis Poole (1914-1997) was the first African American United States Attorney (1961), the first African American federal judge in Northern California (1976), and the first African American judge on the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals (1979). A graduate of Michigan Law School (LLB 1938) and Harvard University Law School (LLM 1939), he was drafted during World War II and commissioned as an officer in the U.S. Army Air Corps. He served with the 332nd Fighter Group—the original group of black pilots—in Tuskegee, Alabama, where he was assistant trial judge advocate. Judge Poole was well known for encouraging young African American lawyers, and taught for almost a decade at the University of California Berkeley School of Law.



Barack Obama is the 44th, current, and first African American President of the U.S. He is a graduate of Columbia University and Harvard Law School, where he was the first African American president of the *Harvard Law Review* in 1990. During his summers at Harvard Law School, he worked at the law firms of Sidley Austin and Hopkins & Sutter in Chicago. After law school, he worked as a civil rights attorney and taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago Law School. He also served three terms as an Illinois State Senator and was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2004.



Laurie N. Robinson Haden is the Senior VP and Assistant General Counsel of CBS Corporation. She is also the founder and CEO of Corporate Counsel Women of Color, a non-profit professional organization, which she created to advance women of color attorneys and to foster diversity in the legal profession. She has grown the organization to over 2,900 members, and spearheaded a groundbreaking research report in 2011 on the career progression of women of color attorneys entitled “Perspectives of Women of Color Attorneys in Corporate Legal Departments.” Mrs. Haden also has a quarterly column on diversity in Inside Counsel magazine, and contributes to the CBS Corporation Diversity Blog. She is a graduate of Indiana University School of Law at Bloomington, where she served as President of the Student Law Association.



Sam Williams (1933-1994) was a prominent attorney, the first minority President of the Los Angeles Bar Association, and the first minority President of the California State Bar. A graduate of the University of Southern California Law School in 1961, he faced a legal market in which firms were not hiring or even interviewing black attorneys. Mr. Williams persisted and four years later joined Beardsley Hufstedler & Kemble, where he eventually made partner. He was also a staff attorney for the McCone Commission, the Governor’s body that investigated the 1965 Watts riots in Los Angeles, and several decades later, served on the Los Angeles Board of Police Commissioners at the time of the inquest involving the Rodney King beating in Los Angeles. Mr. Williams was also on the board of many prominent companies, including the Walt Disney Company.



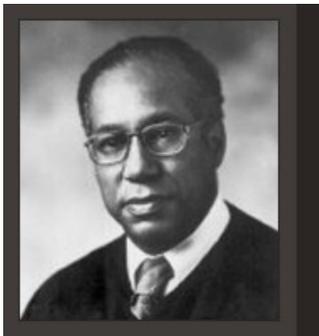
Constance Baker Motley (1921-2005) was the first African American woman appointed to the federal judiciary when she became a district judge for the Southern District of New York in 1966. A graduate of Columbia Law School, she served as a clerk to Thurgood Marshall while a student. A life-long civil rights activist, she became a civil rights attorney with the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund following law school. She wrote the original complaint in *Brown v. Board of Education* and was the first African American woman to argue before the Supreme Court. She was also the first African American woman elected to the New York State Senate in 1964. In 2001, she received the Presidential Citizens Medal in recognition of her achievements and service.



Sandra L. Phillips is a prominent litigator and a founding member of the innovative Center for Women in Law. Ms. Phillips is currently the Vice President and Assistant General Counsel of Toyota Motor Sales. Previously she was a partner at Morgan Lewis, and a senior VP and associate general counsel for Pfizer. A graduate of University of Texas School of Law, together with a dedicated group of other alumnae and friends, Ms. Phillips conceived and provided funding for the Center for Women in Law, which is devoted to the success of women in law, from first-year law students to the most experienced and accomplished attorneys.



William Henry Hastie (1904-1976) was a civil rights lawyer, judge, educator, and public official. A graduate of Harvard Law School, he became the first African American federal judge when President Roosevelt appointed him to the United States District Court for the Virgin Islands in 1937. Hon. Hastie also served as the Dean of Howard University School of Law, where he had previously taught the future Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall. Later, he worked with Thurgood Marshall on a number of landmark cases, including as co-lead counsel in *Smith v. Allwright*, which overturned the Democratic Party's use of all-white primaries. Hon. Hastie was also the first African American governor of the U.S. Virgin Island (1946) and the first African American federal appellate judge (1949) when he was appointed to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, a position in which he served for 22 years. "Difficulty need not foreshadow despair or defeat. Rather achievement can be all the more satisfying because of obstacles surmounted."



Wiley W. Manuel (1927-1981) was the first African American Justice of the California Supreme Court. Generally a centrist as a member of the seven-member Court, he often cast the deciding vote in splits between the liberal and conservative blocs. A graduate of the University of California Hastings College of Law, he also had a 23-year career in the California Attorney General's office. The son of a dining car waiter and domestic servant, Justice Manuel's short life was unmatched by the legacy he left behind. Remembered as a "sweet and gentle man" who never forgot his roots, his "love of the law and his dedication to fairness and justice" is reflected by his remarks when he was sworn in to the California Supreme Court, quoting Frederick Douglass, "Before the law, there should be no rich, no poor, no high, no low, no white, no black, but common country, common citizenship, equal rights and a common destiny."

Patricia R. Harris (1924-1985) was the first African American woman to serve in the United States Cabinet, represent the United States as an ambassador, and head a law school. After graduating at the top of her class from George Washington University National Law Center, she spent a year with the Department of Justice and became a law lecturer at Howard Law School. A few years later, she broke new ground for African American women when President Lyndon Johnson appointed her as United States ambassador to Luxembourg. Ms. Harris held the position for two years and then returned to Howard Law School, becoming the dean in 1969. In the 1970s, Ms. Harris continued her stellar legal career as a corporate attorney at a large firm and served as board member of prominent companies including IBM and Chase Manhattan Bank, until President Jimmy Carter appointed her as United States Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and United States Secretary of Health and Human Services.



Bryan A. Stevenson is a public interest lawyer and the founder and Executive Director of the Equal Justice Initiative, an Alabama-based non-profit organization. Mr. Stevenson has gained national acclaim for his work challenging bias against the poor and people of color in the criminal justice system. Since graduating from Harvard Law School, he has worked on securing relief for innocent prisoners on death row, eliminating excessive and unfair sentencing, confronting abuse of the incarcerated and the mentally ill, aiding children prosecuted as adults, and developing community-based reform litigation aimed at improving the administration of criminal justice. Mr. Stevenson is also a professor at New York University School of Law.



Charles Hamilton Houston (1895-1950) was a civil rights attorney who played an instrumental role in dismantling the Jim Crow laws, earning the title “The Man Who Killed Jim Crow.” Through his work as NAACP Litigation Director, Mr. Houston worked on nearly every civil rights case before the U.S. Supreme Court from 1930 to 1954. His brilliant plan to attack and defeat Jim Crow segregation by using the inequality of the “separate but equal” doctrine (from the Supreme Court’s *Plessy v. Ferguson* decision) as it pertained to public education in the United States was the master stroke that ultimately led to the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. Mr. Houston attended Amherst College (valedictorian 1913) and Harvard Law School where he was the first African American to serve as an editor of the Harvard Law Review.





Mary Ann Shadd Cary (1823 – 1893) was an abolitionist, lawyer, journalist, publisher, and teacher. She became a lawyer in 1883, at the age of 60, becoming the second African American woman in the United States to earn a law degree. She was also the first African American woman publisher in North America with her newspaper *The Provincial Freeman*, the first woman publisher in Canada, and the first woman to enroll in Howard University. During the Civil War, she also worked as a recruiting officer for the Union army in Indiana, encouraging African Americans to join in the fight against slavery.



Christopher F. Edley, Jr. is the first African American dean of a top-ranked U.S. law school and a national leader in civil rights law and public policy. He served as dean of the University of California Berkeley School of Law (Boalt Hall) for nearly a decade. Dean Edley substantially improved Boalt Hall's infrastructure to compete with the other top law schools in the country, expanded the faculty and financial aid, and strengthened the school's research centers and professional skills programs. Previously, he was a professor at Harvard Law School for 23 years, where he co-founded the Civil Rights Project, and taught the future President Obama. He has also served in White House policy and budget positions in both the Carter and Clinton administrations, including as a member of the United States Commission on Civil Rights. 3L+ co-founders are proud to have known Dean Edley as their dean and thank him for his invaluable service to Boalt Hall and the next generation of lawyers.

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