

THE NATIONAL BLACK LAWYERS  
TOP 100



*January 25, 2026 | 6:00 PM*  
*Loews Miami Beach Hotel*



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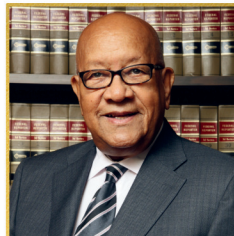
**TOYJA KELLEY**

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# PAST INDUCTEES



**HON. DENNIS W.  
ARCHER**  
*2025*



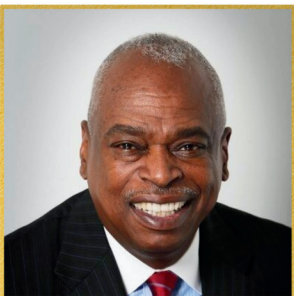
**BARBARA R.  
ARNWINE**  
*2023*



**BEN CRUMP**  
*2025*



**FRED D. GRAY**  
*2023*



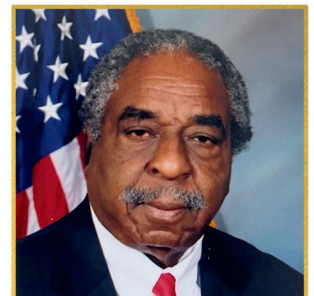
**WADE J.  
HENDERSON**  
*2024*



**SHERRILYN IFILL**  
*2025*



**ELAINE JONES**  
*2023*



**JUDGE CHARLES  
PRICE**  
*2023*



**HEZEKIAH  
SISTRUNK, JR.**  
*2023*



**BRYAN  
STEVENSON**  
*2024*



**CHRISTINA  
SWARNS**  
*2024*



**BENJAMIN F.  
WILSON**  
*2023*



# A MESSAGE FROM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANNAMARIA STEWARD



As we celebrate our newly inducted Hall of Famers, we also celebrate each and every member of our African American Legal Braintrust™. We are proud of you and continue to be awed by all of your professional and community achievements.

This year, more than any other year, the mission of The NBL was amplified. As our Founder Hezekiah Sistrunk, Jr., explained: “The National Black Lawyers was created during National Trial Lawyers Summits, where we realized that while we were sharing valuable information amongst each other on business growth, litigation strategies, and how to obtain large verdicts of national importance, the number of African American Attorneys present was few. In addition, we noted that individually, we interacted with numerous highly successful black plaintiff and defense attorneys across the country who generously – but informally -- shared their knowledge with each other.

We knew that we needed to formalize these relationships to share information with the generation coming behind us, many of whom, like us, are first generation lawyers. We knew that we needed to provide guidance on professional growth and opportunities, educate on emerging legal issues, nationally share job opportunities, and create a way to easily refer cases to each other and ask for professional advice.

We also knew that we needed to connect African American lawyers to the best lawyers – of any ethnicity -- practicing today. We needed African American lawyers to be top of mind when large cases are being referred, when partnerships are being discussed, when presenters are being requested and when professionally impactful cases are being developed.

For this reason, in 2014, we created The National Black Lawyers Top 100, an organization of truly excellent African American lawyers dedicated to connecting our friends and colleagues, plaintiff and defense attorneys, of all practice groups.”

Furthering this mission, in 2023, NBL President LaBarron Boone created The NBL Hall of Fame to recognize living African American attorneys “who have contributed immeasurably to the legal profession with their work on major legal cases, pivotal laws, and/or local or national policy. Our awardees have not only used their talents to benefit the country, but also served as powerful mentors to and role models for the next generation of African American lawyers.” We proudly have inducted lawyers who are the EPITOME of legal, ethical, social and moral excellence. Tonight, we add three more: LaBarron Boone, Ambassador Carol Moseley Braun and Governor L. Douglas Wilder.

As our membership continues to grow, we thank you for your willingness to share your knowledge with other members, we thank you for your contributions and case referrals to our Listserv, and we thank you for your constant dedication to improving the profession and the community. We also send a special welcome to the many law students who join us tonight as guests of Mr. Sistrunk, Jr. We hope to represent stellar examples for you and we look forward to welcoming you into The NBL in the future!



# DINNER MENU

## Appetizer

**Salad:** *local baby butter lettuce, heirloom carrots, cherry tomatoes, purple radishes, blueberries, shaved manchego, raspberry vinaigrette*

## Entrée

**Organic Cage-Free Grilled Chicken Breast:** *herb polenta, chili garlic rapini, mix mushroom, marsala sauce*

## Dessert

**Bahibe Chocolate Torte:** *caramelia quenelle, cocoa crumble, dulce de leche, equitorale ganache*

Freshly brewed coffee, decaffeinated coffee, and a selection of teas



## AMBASSADOR

# CAROL MOSELY BRAUN



Carol Moseley Braun served as the first African American woman in the U.S. Senate from 1993 to 1999. In the Senate, her legislative initiatives ran the gamut from championing women's health to civil rights. She holds a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Illinois and received a Juris Doctorate from the University of Chicago. Following law school, one of her earliest positions was as an Assistant United States Attorney, where she garnered the Attorney General's Special Achievement Award. Carol is a frequent on-air guest political analyst and has been featured in numerous broadcasts, radio podcasts, and profiles.

In her memoir *TRAILBLAZER*, Moseley Braun details her stormy childhood in post-World War II Chicago up to her many firsts since entering politics in the 1970s, shattering ceilings and making history: The first Black woman ever elected to the Senate. The first Black woman on the Senate Judiciary committee. The first woman to represent the state of Illinois in Congress. The first Black woman to serve as a U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand.

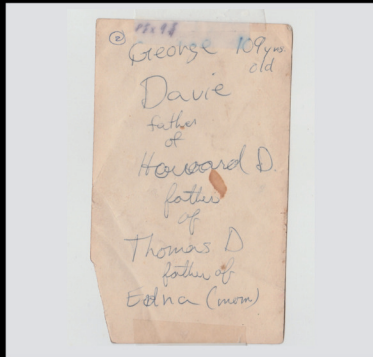
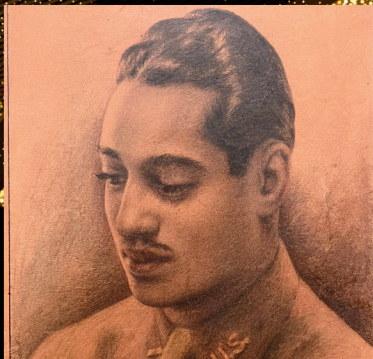
Yet her journey to Capitol Hill and to international renown was not an easy one, rife with obstacles, controversies, and lessons learned. In this memoir, Moseley Braun candidly shares the story of her extraordinary life in a fascinating narrative filled with poignant, powerful, and sometimes funny stories. Born into a family of New Orleans jazz musicians and Alabama farmers whose history of activism and military service dates back to the Civil War, Moseley Braun talks about her remarkable life including:

- Marching with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and her engagement during the civil rights, women's and Black Power movements
- How her unusual encounter with a bird catapulted her into politics
- How Gloria Steinem, Maya Angelou and Hollywood celebrities supported her groundbreaking Senate campaign
- Passionately filibustering against the Confederate Flag on the Senate floor
- The friendships and alliances made throughout her storied career, from Joe Biden to Hillary Clinton and Ted Kennedy
- Running for president as the lone woman in a field of men
- How meeting icons Rosa Parks, Nelson Mandela and Dr. Dorothy Height inspired her

"My life has been filled with serendipity, adventure, and adversity," said Carol Moseley Braun, who was sworn in as Chair of the United States African Development Foundation in 2024. "Every experience has been anchored by my strong faith in God."

A devoted mother and proud grandmother of twins, she faithfully serves on the Consecration Committee for the Episcopal Diocese.







# GOVERNOR L. DOUGLAS WILDER



L. Douglas Wilder's career in public service spans over 70 years and includes many historic milestones. Governor Wilder became the first African-American to be elected governor in the U.S., leading the Commonwealth of Virginia from 1990 to 1994. As the Commonwealth's 66th governor, he was commended for his sound fiscal management and balancing the state budget during difficult economic times.

Financial World magazine ranked Virginia as the best-managed state in the U.S. for two consecutive years under his administration.

Prior to his time as governor, he served as lieutenant governor from 1986 to 1990 and as a state senator from 1969-1985, chairing committees on Transportation; Rehabilitation and Social Services; Privileges and Elections; the Virginia Advisory Legislative Council (VALC), the forerunner of the Joint Legislative Audit & Review Commission (JLARC) that conducts program evaluation, policy analysis, and oversight of state agencies on behalf of the Virginia General Assembly; and the Senate Steering Committee, which appoints committee members.

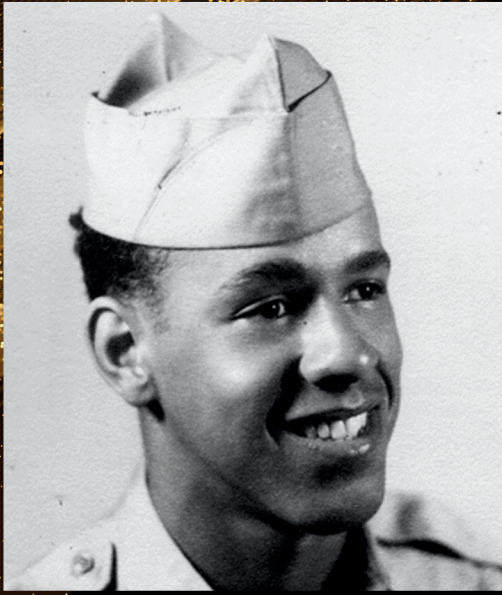
Other legislative achievements include providing state health care coverage for sickle-cell anemia patients, toughening penalties for capital murderers and prison escapees, and expanding low and moderate-income housing. For eight years, he persisted in sponsoring legislation that eventually led to establishing a state holiday honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., making Virginia the first state in the nation to have a legislative holiday for Dr. King. Governor Wilder was the driving force in appointing black judges to serve on the bench.

An attorney by profession, Governor Wilder gained recognition as a leading criminal trial lawyer. He graduated from Howard University Law School in 1959 and later established the legal firm that became known as Wilder, Gregory & Associates, one of the few minority-owned businesses in Virginia at the time. Prior to earning his J.D., he graduated from Virginia Union University with a B.S. degree in Chemistry and worked in the Office of the Chief Medical Examiner as a toxicology technician.

Today, Governor Wilder is a Distinguished Professor at Virginia Commonwealth University's L. Douglas Wilder School of Government and Public Affairs where he lectures and hosts symposia, including "Race in Academia," "The Triple Pandemic," and "Racism, Health, and Accountability," and most recently "HBCUs and the Absence of Support." He is also the author of "Son of Virginia: A Life in America's Political Arena."

As one of commonwealth's best and most outspoken ambassadors, he continues to be a champion for the people and remains highly engaged in issues for Virginians. Governor Wilder is a recipient of numerous awards, including the prestigious NAACP Spingarn Medal. Most recently, he received the University of Virginia's Center for Politics Defender of Democracy Award which recognized his lifelong efforts and actions to improve and strengthen democracy. His legacy continues to inspire all citizens to engage in public service by "demanding what is right and criticizing what is wrong."







# ATTORNEY LABARRON BOONE



LaBarron joined Beasley Allen Law Firm in 1995 and has been instrumental in presenting product liability, consumer fraud and personal injury cases. He was the first African American partner at a major law firm in Montgomery, Alabama.

As a Beasley Allen attorney for over 20 years, LaBarron has handled various cases involving crashworthiness, seatbelt restraint failures, accidental airbag deployments, tractor rollovers, tire tread separation (Ford/Firestone) and consumer and insurance fraud.

LaBarron was born and raised in Mobile, Alabama. He is married to Lori David Boone and has two children, Micah and Logan. They are members of Resurrection Catholic Church.

LaBarron has taken a special interest in the nation's opioid epidemic. LaBarron has made it his mission to see that states, counties, cities and hospitals hold accountable those responsible for this senseless tragedy, which now kills more Americans than gun homicides and car crashes combined. He has met with government officials across the country to discuss solutions that will stop the needless loss of lives caused by the opioid crisis.

LaBarron is involved in many Montgomery-area community and social activities, such as serving on the Cleveland Avenue YMCA Board of Management, Resurrection Catholic Church Board of Trustees, Child Protect Board of Trustees, the Dexter Avenue King Memorial Foundation, and serving on the board of Medical Outreach Ministries (MOM).

LaBarron is a member of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce Committee of 100, which works to strengthen and drive economic development for the River Region. He also serves on the Central Alabama Community Foundation Board of Trustees (CACF), one of the largest charitable foundations in Alabama with assets exceeding \$27 million.

Previously, he co-chaired the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce Ad Valorem Initiative Committee to improve funding for the Montgomery County (Alabama) Public School System. The committee encouraged voters to support an increase in the local property tax, which Montgomery voters successfully approved in the November 2020 general election.

In January 2023, LaBarron began serving as Chairman of the Montgomery Area Chamber of Commerce successfully facilitating the implementation of economic strategies resulting in over 1.7 billion dollars in new economic investments. From January 2021 until the beginning of his term as Chairman, LaBarron served as Vice Chairman.

Previously, he was selected to serve on the Alabama State University 2011 and 2013 Presidential Search Committees.

Led by his mother's charge to "make the world a better place," LaBarron also purchased an ownership stake in First Tuskegee Bank, which at the time was the oldest minority bank in the U.S. First Tuskegee Bank's motto was serving those who need it most, which aligns with Beasley Allen's mission of helping those who need it most. When the bank was sold, LaBarron was the largest individual shareholder.



SCAN TO VIEW  
FULL BIOGRAPHY









## A MESSAGE FROM PRESIDENT BEN WILSON

“The National Black Lawyers is an invitation-only professional development and networking association comprised of the top African American attorneys from across the country. This exclusive organization selects the most legal representation in their respective practice areas. In sum, we are an African American legal brain trust™.” - NBL Mission Statement

There are some who question why we need a black legal brain trust. However, when one sees the rapid and very real retrenchment on Diversity, Equity and Inclusion over this year, the need for The NBL cannot be denied. When one sees the law firms who have capitulated to the current Administration in the name of pro bono but to the detriment of minority attorneys, the need for The NBL cannot be denied. And when one sees the attempt to erase the history, impact and contributions of African Americans in this country, the need for The NBL cannot be denied. Not since the 1960s has the attack on African Americans in this country been so blatant and so brazen. But, in the spirit of Harriet Tubman who declared: “I never lost a passenger”, neither will we.

This year, we have hosted Town Halls on navigating current Executive Orders and cases. We have individually signed on to amicus briefs and participated in strategy sessions. We have connected members who have lost their positions with opportunities and legal representation. We have built an online forum for legal discussion groups, local and national events, and case requests and referrals.

The next three years promise to be as challenging as any we have ever experienced in this country but we have living examples of how to weather these storms right here in this room. Tonight, we honor the very first elected African American female U.S. Senator and the first elected post-reconstruction African American Governor. Their leadership in uncharted and torrential legislative waters will be our guide. We honor the lawyer who obtained the largest predatory lending verdict in this country – an enormous demonstration of standing up against financial attacks on African American and lower income communities. And, we honor a lawyer who oversees legal, public policy, legislative and regulatory affairs, compliance and corporate giving for a Fortune 200 company and one of the nation’s largest utility companies, serving more than 10.7 million customers. These are our lighthouses. These are our guides. These are our modern day Harriets.

Following the admonition of the prophet Isaiah: “We shall walk and not faint, we shall run and not be weary.”

Thank you for being here tonight and, more importantly, for being with us tomorrow.



# **BEN F. WILSON LEGACY AWARD RECIPIENT HON. COLETTE D. HONORABLE**



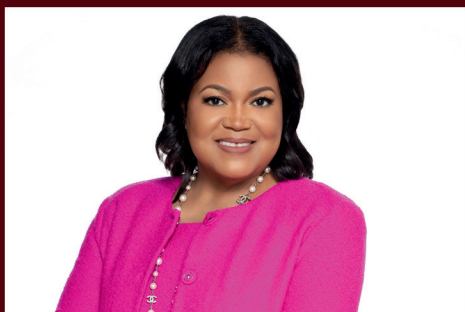
The Honorable Colette D. Honorable is Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary for Exelon Corporation, a Fortune 200 Company and the nation's largest utility, leading a team of professionals engaged in legal efforts across Exelon and its operating companies. Honorable also oversees public policy, legislative and regulatory affairs, and corporate giving. Honorable is a member of Exelon's Executive Committee as well as a member of the Exelon Foundation Board.

Prior to serving as Chief Legal Officer and Corporate Secretary, Honorable served as EVP and Chief External Affairs Officer at Exelon. She joined Exelon in September 2023 from global law firm Reed Smith LLP, where Honorable was an equity partner, head of the firm's energy regulatory group, and member of the Executive Committee.

Prior to the firm, Honorable was nominated by President Barack Obama and was unanimously confirmed by the United States Senate to serve as Commissioner at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. During her term, she oversaw the reliability of the electric grid in the United States, with areas of oversight including cyber and physical security, wholesale markets, transmission planning, infrastructure development, renewable energy and storage integration, gas and electric coordination, and ratemaking and enforcement matters.

Prior to joining FERC, she spent several years on the Arkansas Public Service Commission, including serving as commissioner, interim chairman, and chairman. Prior to joining the Arkansas PSC, Colette served as chief of staff to the Arkansas Attorney General and as a member of the governor's cabinet as Executive Director of the Arkansas Workforce Investment Board. Her previous employment includes serving as a consumer protection and civil litigation attorney, and as a senior assistant attorney general in Medicaid fraud, as an adjunct professor at the University of Arkansas at Little Rock School of Law and Special Judge of the Pulaski County Circuit Court.

Honorable has testified before Congress on several occasions and is called upon to advise and conduct peer reviews for the National Academies of Sciences and several branches of the U.S. Government. She has advised presidential personnel and transition teams, as well as members of Congress on energy, equity, and inclusion issues, and has provided technical advice and counsel on these topics to several nations worldwide as a courtesy to the State Department and at the request of foreign governments.



SCAN TO VIEW  
FULL BIOGRAPHY



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# SUBMIT YOUR NOMINATIONS



The National Black Lawyers Top 100 and Top 40 Under 40 is an invitation-only professional development and networking association. Many of our members are referred by current members and leaders in the profession. If you would like to nominate an attorney for membership consideration, please submit their contact information here:



*We wish you a healthy, productive  
and empowering 2026!*



THE NATIONAL BLACK LAWYERS  
TOP 100

