

ATTORNEYS AROUND THE COUNTRY

"YOUNG, GIFTED, AND BLACK"

By KENNETH L. COLLINS

INCORPORATED WITHIN the philosophy of The BLACK LAW JOURNAL is the idea of welding a stronger community through the consolidation of the street community with that of the black legal profession. To effectuate that goal we of the Board of Editors have chosen to present in each issue brief biographical and occupational sketches of outstanding members of the black legal profession who have made significant efforts to improve the lives and well being of their black brothers and sisters.

For our initial issue we have chosen six young black men of law. In future issues we will present the activities of outstanding black women, judges, legislators, and other public office holders and administrators who help to guide the present and future of Black America.

We wish our future choices to reflect the feelings and perceptions of the black legal community as well as the community-at-large, therefore we extend an open invitation to all members of the black legal profession and the black community to submit names, positions and locations of any black lawyers whose efforts in behalf of the black community have gone without recognition.



RONALD ROSS DAVENPORT, 34, is presently Dean of the Duquesne Law School. He was appointed to this position July 1, 1970, thus making him one of the youngest Deans of a major law school in the country.

Dean Davenport began his educational career in his home town of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Upon completion of secondary education, he entered Penn State University, where he earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Economics in 1958. He received his LL.B. degree from Temple University School of Law in 1962 and a Master of Law degree from Yale University School of Law in 1963.

During the period of his college career, he was an outstanding student and very involved in extra-curricular activities. In 1958 he won a Penn State University Presidential Scholarship. At Temple, he was Associate Editor of the Temple Law Quarterly, Associate Justice Moot Court Board, Faculty Research Associate (1961-1962) and recipient of a Temple University Law School Scholarship in 1961-1962. This represents merely a partial listing of his many accomplishments and activities in college and law school.

Dean Davenport's professional career began as a law clerk in the firm of Moore, Lightfoot and Edley and later with the firm of Norris, Green, Harris and Higginbotham in Philadelphia. Upon completion of graduation from Temple, he joined the latter firm as an Associate. He also worked as a staff attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund in the Summer of 1964. He was General Counsel of the Mayor's Com-

mittee on Human Resources, Inc., from 1964 through the summer of 1968. He spent the Summer of 1966 on the staff of HEW in the Equal Educational Opportunities Program. In addition, he served as General Counsel for the Citizens Committee for Hill District Renewal of Pittsburgh from 1965 to 1967 and the Opportunities Industrialization Center, Inc., of Pittsburgh from 1966 to 1968.

From 1963 to 1965 he held the position of Assistant Professor of Law, Duquesne University; Associate Professor 1965 to 1967; Professor of Law since 1967.

Dean Davenport's community activities are too numerous to begin to relate. (He received the Kiwanis Certificate of Merit, 1967; was chosen for the Pittsburgh Courier Distinguished Public Service Award in 1968; was given the Masons' Man of the Year Award for 1969.) Presently he serves as President of the Pittsburgh Urban League and as a Board Member of several Pittsburgh organizations relating to community interests.

The Dean has authored a number of scholarly articles. Among them are "THE UNIONS, THE IMPLICIT ENEMY," and "THE SECOND JUSTICE MARSHALL AND THE SUPREME COURT AND THE NEGRO." In addition to his many articles and papers, he has been involved in writing many appellate briefs, the most notable of which were *Bell v. Maryland*, for the Court of Appeals of Maryland, and *Abernathy v. Alabama*, for the United States Supreme Court.

Ronald Ross Davenport is a young black man who has gained the accolades of his peers in the legal profession as well as in the community. But he is a man who has given as he has received. His latest accomplishment is a rare but gratifying event in the lives of black people. Yet, to us, his long term devotion to the cause of humanity is what marks him best as a man. To him we say Peace and Power!



STANLEY R. MALONE, JR., 46, is a partner in the firm of Tolbert, Wooden and Malone in Los Angeles, California. The firm engages in traditional legal practice, with a specialty in entertainment law.

Mr. Malone, known to his friends as just "Stan," began his education in Washington, D. C. at Howard University and completed it in Los Angeles, California, upon obtaining his LL.B. Degree at Southwestern University. During his cross-country educational journey he attended Prairie View College and North Carolina A & T.

His professional career began upon his admission to the California State Bar in 1952. For a brief period he worked as a sole practitioner before entering into a partnership in the firm of Lang, Malone and Hall. In 1960 he began an association with Loren Miller, Sr., which was to last for five years until Miller was appointed to the municipal court bench. During their association he collaborated with Miller in the writing of *THE PETITIONER: THE STORY OF THE U. S. SUPREME COURT AND THE NEGRO*. In 1965 he joined the firm of Tolbert and Wooden as a partner.

Mr. Malone has been involved for many years in the presentation of minority causes. In 1955 he served as NAACP Legal Grievance Counsel in litigation which culminated in the integration of the Los Angeles Fire Department. He was involved in preparing the appeal brief on Proposition 14 (California's restrictive housing law), which was held to be unconstitutional by both the California Supreme Court and the United States Supreme Court. He participated in one of the state's landmark cases, *Jackson v. Pasadena Board of Education* (suit challenged system of racially segregated pattern of city schools). Mr. Malone has frequently challenged the Los Angeles jury system for its consistent practice of excluding blacks and other minority members. In 1965 he was involved in the case of *Abstract v. Hutchins*, where the California Court of Appeals held that there was no absolute right on the part of landlords to evict tenants,

particularly where the tenants were members of a minority group. His legal prowess has made him in demand to defend a diversity of groups and interests, from the Muslims in 1960 to the students at California State College at Los Angeles (who were arrested for demonstrating against the war by picketing Dow Chemical Corp.) in 1969.

In a career that spans almost two decades, he has established an enviable record for concern and involvement in the affairs of the community. That this involvement is not restricted by legal representation is illustrated by his many memberships in community-directed organizations. From 1964 to 1969 he was president of the Langston Law Club (a black lawyers organization). He is a member of the Los Angeles Neighborhood Legal Services, Inc.; Board Member of the Western Center on Law and Poverty; Member of Los Angeles District Attorney's Coroner Inquest Study Committee; Member of the Board of Trustees of the Los Angeles County Bar Association; Chairman of California Coalition of Black Attorneys, and member of the National Advisory Board of the National Bar Association.

Mr. Malone is a man on the go. Doing things and getting things done. Yet, he still has time to help a brother stay out of jail when that brother has no money to pay for his services. He has created the kind of professional image of which we all can be proud.



DERRICK A. BELL, JR., 40, is presently a lecturer on Law at the Harvard University School of Law, having been appointed to that position in the summer of 1969.

Born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, he attended Duquesne University, where he earned a degree in Political Science in June 1952. Later, he attended the University of Pittsburgh Law School, completing his work for an LL.B. Degree, class of 1957. While in law school, Mr. Bell held the position of Associate Editor of the Law Review. In that capacity he published several articles and notes on Constitutional law subjects.

Mr. Bell's professional career began in the U. S. Department of Justice (Member of U. S. Attorney General's Honor Graduate Recruitment Program) on completion of his legal education. After two years, he left to serve one year with the NAACP in Pittsburgh as Executive Secretary. In 1960 he joined the legal staff of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc. While in that position he handled civil rights litigation in virtually every southern state. In 1965 he became First Assistant Counsel for the Fund, assuming administrative as well as litigational duties.

Following his six years with the Fund, he became Deputy Special Assistant to the Secretary for Civil Rights of HEW. He was Assistant to the Director of HEW's program to administer Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which provided enforcement in the areas of Education, Public Health Service, Welfare Administration, Vocational Rehabilitation Administration, and other agencies. He also participated in drafting the 1968 School Desegregation Guidelines.

In 1968 Mr. Bell entered into the field of public interest law by accepting a position as Director of the Western Center on Law and Poverty, a project sponsored by the University of Southern California and funded by OEO. During the one-year period that he filled this position, the Center was involved in much significant litigation: *Silvas v. Santa Ana Unified School District*, testing the power of a school board to refuse financial aid; *Robinson v. Los Angeles Police Department*, to protect black citizens from police harassment and intimidation; *Kelley v. Mun. Ct. of Compton*, to test the validity of the State's "claim and delivery" law, requiring police officers acting on the affidavit of creditors to break and enter private homes to repossess personal property; and other suits involving welfare rights and public housing tenants.

In addition to his position as Director of the Center, he also held the title of Adjunct Professor of Law on the USC Faculty. He designed and taught a course in "Race Relations Law" to second and third year law students. In the summer of 1969 he taught "Race, Racism and American Law" at the University of California School of Law, Berkeley.

Mr. Bell is a member of the Bar of the District of Columbia, Pennsylvania, New York, California and the U. S. Supreme Court. In addition he is a member of the bar and has practiced before the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Eighth and Tenth Circuits, as well as several Federal District Courts.

Mr. Bell is seen by his colleagues and friends as a legal scholar and an advocate of the rights of the people. His career stands as mute testimony to his commitment and dedication to advancing the rights of the poor and the disadvantaged. We hope that his efforts will stand as a beacon light, showing the way to young students as they attempt to determine their roles in the movement. Peace and Power to Brother Bell.



KENNETH V. COCKREL, 31, is a member of the firm of Philo, Maki, Jobas, Cockrel and Robb, which he helped found in 1968. It is an East Side firm dedicated to using the legal system to protect and defend dissidents in society, and particularly the black community, and to further liberal-radical-militant causes.

Mr. Cockrel was born in Detroit and raised in Royal Oak Township. Orphaned at an early age, he was raised by relatives until his high school years at Northwestern High School. He left school to join the air force. While serving in Germany, he completed his high school education. Upon returning to Detroit he enrolled in Wayne State University and from there to the Wayne School of Law, where he received an LL.B. Degree in 1967. He was admitted to the Michigan State Bar Association in 1968.

Mr. Cockrel's first public notice came in 1966, when he ran for state representative, although subsequently defeated by his white opponent. In the two brief years that he has practiced law in Detroit he has become a man to be reckoned with. Amongst his peers and the members of the community he has been accorded the reputation as one of the best criminal lawyers in the city.

In addition to his notable activities in the criminal courts, especially his representation of the defendants in the New Bethel Church confrontation, he is strongly involved in community matters. In particular, he has helped found and perpetuate the League of Revolutionary Black Workers. This organization has as its primary goal the consolidation of black workers, who make up a large part of the labor force in the city's auto plants, and the organization of the black community as a whole. The central issues utilized are school desegregation and community control. He has also used his talents to defend black organizational efforts from unwarranted attack. An example was his defense of the Black Economic Development Conference when they were being investigated by the Justice Department last summer.

Mr. Cockrel, who is known for his fiery oratory, has recently set a most valuable precedent in his role as advocate for the people. After having attempted to present the case of one of his clients before a local Recorder's Court judge, he was held in contempt by the judge for alleged remarks made immediately after the hearing. At that time he described the judge as a racist pirate, thief and other allegedly derogatory comments. Mr. Cockrel had been airing his feelings with regard to what he considered illegal and racist activity on the part of the judge. At his contempt proceedings he was exonerated by pleading truth as a defense. Although currently facing possible disciplinary action from the bar association, it is not expected that any formal action will be taken. In any case, he has broken the tradition that a lawyer must stand idly by while his client is being railroaded into jail. And no doubt it is why he has been called "The Brother Ken Cockrel, Slayer of Dragons in Recorder's Court" (William Serrin, Detroit Magazine, DETROIT FREE PRESS, Sunday Edition, July 26, 1970).



HAYWOOD BURNS, 30, is Executive Director of the National Conference of Black Lawyers headquartered in New York City, and, in addition, holds the position of faculty member of the New York University Law School.

Mr. Burns attended Harvard University and graduated as an Honors Student in History in 1962. He then attended Cambridge University, England, on a Lionel deJersey Harvard Studentship. After a year's study at Cambridge, he spent three years at Yale University Law School, where he earned his law degree in 1966.

His professional career began with summer employment in the Civil Rights Division of the U. S. Justice Department following his first year of law school. The next summer he spent as a

legal intern at the New Haven Legal Assistance Association. Upon leaving Yale, he entered the firm of Paul, Weis, Goldberg, Firking, Wharton and Garrison. He took a leave from that firm in September of 1966 to become a law clerk for the Honorable Constance B. Motley, the only black woman District Court Judge in the United States. In 1967, Mr. Burns took a position as Assistant Counsel, NAACP Legal Defense Fund.

Mr. Burns' present position was created with the inception of the NCBL in January of 1970. The NCBL carries on a program of litigation, including affirmative suits on community issues and defense of unpopular clients. In this regard, Mr. Burns has defended such groups as the Black Panthers (in both New York and Philadelphia) and the Cornell University black students in the famous confrontation at Willard Straight Hall. Mr. Burns' latest efforts were in behalf of Angela Davis when he obtained her release from the isolation section of the New York jail where she awaited extradition to California to face charges stemming from the much publicized San Rafael Courthouse shootout.

In addition to all of Haywood Burns' other activities, he has found time to author many articles dealing with the law and the black community. Most notable among these is "Can a Black Man Get a Fair Trial," printed in the *New York Times* in 1970.

Haywood Burns, like so many other black professionals, has made his contribution to the cause and in so doing has shown dedication and commitment which should inspire all black people. In the words of Sister Nina Simone we say, "To be young, gifted and black—that's where it's at!"

HENRY W. MCGEE, JR., is a law professor at the UCLA School of Law. During the past autumn, he was Director of the Reginald Heber Smith Fellowship Program's West Coast Training Institute sponsored by the Western Center on Law and Poverty and held at the University of Southern California's Law Center. The Institute provided training in poverty law for young lawyers working in legal services agencies in the Western states.



Professor McGee was educated at Northwestern University in Chicago, Illinois, where he earned a Bachelor's Degree in Journalism in 1954. He won academic honors by maintaining a "straight A" average in his concurrent major of Political Science. His legal education commenced at DePaul University in Chicago, Illinois, where he was awarded a Juris Doctor Degree in 1957. While attending DePaul, he was elected Editor-in-Chief of the *Law Review*, thus becoming the first black there so honored. He was also a member of the

Blue Key National Honor Fraternity. After more than ten years of practice and service with government agencies, he was appointed Benjamin Cardozo Fellow at Columbia University School of Law in 1968. Columbia later conferred upon him the degree of Master of Laws.

During his first years before the bar, he sought first-hand insight into the criminal law process and accepted a position with the Appeals Division of the Cook County (Chicago) State's Attorney's Office. From early 1958 to late 1961 he prosecuted numerous felony and misdemeanor cases, handled appellate matters and extraordinary remedies as well as tax and condemnation litigation. In the fall of 1962 he entered private practice as an associate in a Chicago law firm comprised chiefly of trial lawyers and specializing in the litigation of personal injury and criminal cases.

The civil rights movement was in full swing during the sixties and by 1964 had begun to move to the North in its challenge of segregation and racism. Professor McGee placed himself in the forefront of the defense of those civil rights demonstrators who were being arrested by the thousands across the country. Geographical barriers were overcome as he tried cases from Chicago to the remote towns of Mississippi.

Ultimately the movement changed from the early dramatic confrontations between young black students and southern laws and customs to the more settled and comprehensive national war on poverty and racism. His civil rights experience led naturally to an interest in the legal problems of the poor. In 1966 he left private practice, feeling that its largely economic concerns were too narrow and restrictive, and accepted the position of Regional Director of OEO's Legal Services Program in the Great Lakes Region. He was responsible for the organization and funding of 35 legal service agencies in six states from Minnesota to Ohio. After the first wave of agencies were funded, Professor McGee left OEO to direct an action-oriented research project at the University of Chicago Law School's Center for Studies in Criminal Justice. The project provided lawyers for black teenagers in a Chicago ghetto.

The position at Chicago led naturally to additional academic pursuits and shortly before his appointment at Columbia in 1968, he served as a Visiting Professor of Law at Ohio State University. Following his work at Columbia, and before joining the UCLA law faculty, he taught in the NYU/Columbia CLEO Institute.

The involvement in journalism has been present throughout his educational and professional career. Thus he was Editor-in-Chief of an award-winning junior college newspaper, and after college was News Editor of the Associated Negro Press (now Negro Press International) from 1954 to 1956. His many contributions to legal journals include *Urban Renewal in the Crucible of Judicial Review*, 56 Va. L. Rev. 826 (1970); *Law Advocacy and "Legal Services to Youth"*; *Summaries on the Use of Para-Legal Aides in a Chicago Law Office Serving Juveniles*, 47 Jour. Urban Law 127 (1969); and *Arrests in Civil Disturbances: Reflections on the Use of Deadly Force in Riots*, 22 Rutgers L. Rev. 716 (1968). He is also the author of numerous teaching materials, including LAW, POVERTY AND THE OPPRESSED, MATERIALS ON THE AMERICAN LEGAL PROCESS AND THE POOR, (1969).

Professor McGee's activities have extended beyond academia. His services as a consultant to a variety of governmental and community organizations, including the U. S. Office of Economic Opportunity, U. S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, and the Los Angeles Pico-Union Neighborhood Council. But he often finds himself caught up in the drama of individuals in trouble. He is currently working on the defense of black inmates in California penal institutions, including the Soledad Brothers. He is Chairman of the UCLA Faculty Members for Angela Davis and is serving on a committee of black law professors from law schools throughout the country who are cooperating in the defense of Professor Davis on charges stemming from the much publicized San Rafael courthouse shootout. Professor McGee is a brilliant and vibrant young black man, deeply concerned with and involved in the struggles of black Americans.