

ALEXANDER P. TUREAUD 1899-1972

Alexander Pierre Tureaud was born February 26, 1899 in New Orleans, Louisiana. In 1922, he enrolled at Howard University School of Law, graduating in 1925. Returning to New Orleans in 1926, he became one of four Black attorneys practicing in Louisiana.

Upon his return to Louisiana, Tureaud brought *Hall v. Nagel*,¹ which resulted in opening the voter registration polls in St. John the Baptist Parish to Blacks. Over the years, Tureaud was actively involved in cases that bore on race relations in Louisiana. While associated with the NAACP, Tureaud challenged the state's voter registration laws and the salary disparity between Black and White teachers. In the 1950's Tureaud sued the City of New Orleans to force it to open park facilities to Blacks.

Tureaud's impact on higher education in Louisiana was felt through a series of unpublished decisions, including: *Wilson v. Board of Supervisors of Louisiana State University* (forcing LSU to open its law school to Blacks); *Tureaud v. Louisiana State University* (opening graduate school to Blacks) and *Foister v. Louisiana State University* (opening medical school to Blacks). Orleans Parish schools were integrated as a result of *Bush v. Orleans Parish School Board*, which was intermittedly before the courts from 1952 through 1962.

Tureaud actively defended Blacks arrested as a result of sit-in demonstrations, taking *Garner v. Louisiana*,² to the U.S. Supreme Court. He also successfully attacked discrimination in public accommodations in *Pania v. City of New Orleans*,³ which struck down an ordinance mandating segregation in places where alcoholic beverages were sold or consumed. It is not surprising that Alexander Tureaud is credited as having been one of the most active civil rights lawyers in Louisiana.

1. An unpublished opinion.

2. 368 U.S. 157 (1961).

3. An unpublished opinion.