



New Jersey Equal Justice Library and Archive

“The arc of the moral universe is long,
but it bends toward justice.”

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Statewide Program

Legal Services of New Jersey

Regional Programs

- Central Jersey Legal Services
- Essex-Newark Legal Services
- Legal Services of Northwest Jersey
- Northeast New Jersey Legal Services
- South Jersey Legal Services

www.njejla.org • www.lsnj.org
www.lsnjlaw.org • www.probononj.org
www.njejla.org/circleofhonor



The mission of the New Jersey Equal Justice Library and Archive (NJEJLA) is to capture, preserve, and chronicle New Jersey’s journey toward equal justice for all of its citizens.

*New Jersey
Equal Justice
Library and Archive*

CIRCLE
of HONOR

For 55 years, Legal Services in New Jersey has been a central force in the struggle for civil legal justice in the state. Through the NJEJLA, we have compiled materials related to New Jersey's quest for equality to serve as a resource for educators and students.

Included in the NJEJLA is the Circle of Honor, heralding those who have made extraordinary achievements in advancing equal justice, and whose efforts and lives stand as enduring paradigms for others to emulate. The Circle of Honor furthers the NJEJLA's historical, educational, and preservation goals, and serves as an inspiration to those committed to justice.

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Mileposts

The collection of major cases and other specific achievements—the “mileposts”—included in the NJEJLA is one gauge for measuring positive change in laws and legal procedures in New Jersey. The listings highlight select reported and unreported decisions, as well as key non-case achievements that had substantial consequence. Taken as a whole, these mileposts represent an overall increase in the legal system's fairness toward disadvantaged people and their perception and expectation of receiving fair treatment.

Circle of Honor

Analogous to “halls of fame” for other institutions, the Circle of Honor memorializes those who have made extraordinary achievements in advancing equal justice, and whose efforts and lives stand as enduring paradigms for others to emulate. Each has played a role in bending the moral arc of the universe toward justice.

Oral Histories

The history of Legal Services is a rich one, replete with pioneer advocates who have dedicated their lives to furthering the cause of civil justice. Through these oral histories, advocates share their stories of inspiration, perseverance, and achievement.

NJ Legal Services

This section of the NJEJLA traces the often challenging journey of Legal Services since its inception, transformed from a predominantly voluntary, part-time, advice and limited representation legal aid society model to a statewide system that is publicly funded, staffed full-time, and geared to providing full representation.

Prior NJEJLA Circle of Honor Inductees

The Honorable James H. Coleman, Jr.

Former Justice, Supreme Court of New Jersey (2014)

Robert Del Tufo, *Former New Jersey Attorney General (2019)*

Douglas S. Eakeley, *LSNJ Board of Trustees; Former Chair, Board of Directors, Legal Services Corporation (2022)*

Kenneth C. Frazier, *Executive Chairman of the Board, Merck and Co., Inc. (2017)*

The Honorable Thomas H. Kean, *48th Governor of New Jersey (2014)*

Wynona M. Lipman, *New Jersey's first Black Female State Senator (2017)*

The Honorable Deborah T. Poritz, *First Female Chief Justice, Supreme Court of New Jersey (2017)*

Stanley C. Van Ness, *First Public Advocate, State of New Jersey (2022)*

Bonnie Watson Coleman, *U.S. Representative, New Jersey's 12th Congressional District (2019)*

Loretta Weinberg, *Former Senate Majority Leader, 37th Legislative District (2019)*

The Honorable Robert N. Wilentz, *Former Chief Justice, Supreme Court of New Jersey (2019)*



Melville "De" Miller, Jr.

De Miller, President Emeritus of Legal Services of New Jersey, was one of LSNJ's five original incorporators in 1973 and was instrumental in establishing the statewide Legal Services system that exists today. His lifelong pursuit of justice and achievements on behalf of low-income clients in New Jersey are unparalleled.

De is being inducted posthumously into the New Jersey Equal Justice Library and Archive Circle of Honor during the special commemoration of 55 years of Legal Services in New Jersey held on December 8, 2022.

Special 55th Anniversary Induction

2014



**The Honorable
James H. Coleman Jr.**



**The Honorable
Thomas H. Kean**

2022



Douglas S. Eakeley

Prior Inductees

2017



Kenneth C. Frazier



Wynona M. Lipman



**The Honorable
Deborah T. Poritz**



Stanley C. Van Ness

2019



Robert Del Tufo



**Bonnie Watson
Coleman**

2019



Loretta Weinberg



**The Honorable
Robert N. Wilentz**