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

—Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
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.

New Jersey Equal Justice Library and Archive

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.
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
Prior Inductees

2014
- The Honorable James H. Coleman Jr.
- The Honorable Thomas H. Kean

2017
- Kenneth C. Frazier
- Wynona M. Lipman
- The Honorable Deborah T. Poritz

2019
- Robert Del Tufo
- Bonnie Watson Coleman
- Loretta Weinberg
- The Honorable Robert N. Wilentz

2022
- Douglas S. Eakeley
- Stanley C. Van Ness