THE ABA CELEBRATES
BLACK HISTORY MONTH 2020

Honoring Trailblazers In The Legal Profession
WHY WE CELEBRATE BLACK HISTORY MONTH


FOR MORE INFORMATION ON BLACK HISTORY MONTH CONTENT PLEASE VISIT AMBAR.ORG/BHM
MACON BOLLING ALLEN
JUDGE, LAWYER (1816–1894)

MACON BOLLING ALLEN BECAME THE FIRST LICENSED AFRICAN-AMERICAN ATTORNEY IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1844. THE FOLLOWING YEAR, HE BECAME THE FIRST TO PRACTICE LAW IN THE NATION.
JANE BOLIN
JUDGE
LAWYER (1908–2007)

JANE BOLIN WAS A TRAILBLAZING ATTORNEY WHO BECAME THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN FEMALE JUDGE IN THE UNITED STATES, SERVING ON NEW YORK'S FAMILY COURT FOR FOUR DECADES.
FRED GRAY
CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, LAWYER (1930–)

FRED GRAY IS AN ATTORNEY, PREACHER AND FORMER ELECTED OFFICIAL WHO DEFENDED ROSA PARKS AND LED A NUMBER OF ALABAMA KEY CASES DURING THE CIVIL RIGHTS MOVEMENT.
CONSTANCE BAKER MOTLEY
LAWYER, JUDGE, CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST (1921–2005)

THURGOOD MARSHALL
SUPREME COURT JUSTICE, CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, LAWYER(1908–1993)

THURGOOD MARSHALL WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN ENDING LEGAL SEGREGATION AND BECAME THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN JUSTICE ON THE U.S. SUPREME COURT.
CHARLOTTE E. RAY
CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, LAWYER
(1850–1911)

CHARLOTTE E. RAY BECAME THE FIRST FEMALE AFRICAN-AMERICAN LAWYER IN THE UNITED STATES IN 1872.
JOHN MERCER LANGSTON
U.S. REPRESENTATIVE (1829–1897)

LEADER, EDUCATOR, AND DIPLOMAT
JOHN MERCER LANGSTON IS KNOWN AS
THE FIRST AFRICAN-AMERICAN LAWYER IN
OHIO AND THE FIRST TO BE ELECTED TO
PUBLIC OFFICE IN THE UNITED STATES.
JAMES WELDON JOHNSON
CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, SONGWRITER, LITERARY CRITIC, DIPLOMAT, LAWYER, EDUCATOR, POET, AUTHOR (1871–1938)

JAMES WELDON JOHNSON WAS AN EARLY CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, A LEADER OF THE NAACP, AND A LEADING FIGURE IN THE CREATION AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE HARLEM RENAISSANCE.
CHARLES H. HOUSTON
LAWYER, EDUCATOR, CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST
(1895–1950)

ATTORNEY CHARLES H. HOUSTON HELPED CREATE THE LEGAL PRECEDENTS THAT LED TO THE REJECTION OF "SEPARATE BUT EQUAL" SCHOOLS FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS.
BENJAMIN HOOKS
JUDGE, MINISTER, CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST, LAWYER (1925–2010)

BENJAMIN HOOKS WORKED AS A LAWYER, JUDGE AND MINISTER. HE WAS ALSO A CIVIL RIGHTS ACTIVIST WHO LATER SERVED AS EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE NAACP.
DENNIS ARCHER
JUDGE, MAYOR, FIRST AFRICAN
AMERICAN ABA PRESIDENT

DENNIS ARCHER SERVED ON THE
MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT FROM 1986
TO 1990; WAS THE MAYOR OF DETROIT
FROM 1994 TO 2001; AND BECAME THE
FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN PRESIDENT OF
THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION IN
PAULETTE BROWN
ATTORNEY, FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN ABA PRESIDENT

PAULETTE BROWN SERVES AS THE CHIEF DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION OFFICER FOR LOCKE LORD AND BECAME THE FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN WOMEN PRESIDENT OF THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION.
ERIC HOLDER
ATTORNEY, FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN
U.S. ATTORNEY GENERAL

ERIC HOLDER IS A LAWYER WHO SERVED AS
THE 82ND AND FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN
ATTORNEY GENERAL OF THE UNITED
STATES FROM 2009 TO 2015.
BARACK OBAMA
ATTORNEY, FIRST AFRICAN AMERICAN U.S. PRESIDENT