



WHEN A KING HAS GOOD COUNSELORS, HIS REIGN IS PEACEFUL.
~AFRICAN PROVERB



FEBRUARY 2020

KEEPING THE COMMUNITY INFORMED SINCE 1991

Free

ONE PEOPLE. ONE VOICE. ONE AFRICA

The Legacy of Kobe Bryant. . . In His Own Words

By Curtis Bunn



Kobe Bryant was the only man in history to win five NBA championships, two Olympic gold medals, four All-Star Most Valuable Player Awards and an Oscar. And he could speak four languages. A Beethoven fan, he was a genuine man of many gifts and interests.

Many measure Bryant's life by the numbers, but his humility, sacrifice and tireless work ethic shone through. He was the youngest starter in NBA history, at 18 years and 158 days old. Bryant became the first guard to play 20 consecutive seasons and all with the same team. When he retired in 2016, he had scored more than 30,000 points.

The greatness of Kobe's athletic career merited a first-ballot selection to the Hall of Fame, as the basketball world unanimously agreed. He would have been inducted into Hall this year even if he had survived the helicopter crash near Los Angeles that killed him, his 13-year-old daughter and seven other people on Sunday.

But the world lost more than a hardworking phenomenon known for a picturesque jump-shot and graceful style of play. Lost was an honest voice that shared a lot. He told his mercurial story in heartening detail. He shared his uneasiness with life, and people who were not hardcore NBA fans felt a connection to him.

"When I was growing up in Italy, I grew up in isolation," Bryant said in 2015. "It was not an environment suited to me. I was the only black kid. I didn't speak the language. I'd be in one city, but then we'd move to a different city and I'd have to do everything again.

"I'd make friends, but I'd never be part of the group," he added, "because the other

kids were already growing up together. So, this is how I grew up, and these are the weaknesses that I have."

Bryant's plainspoken humanity and link to the outside world are not typical in professional sports. He donated at least \$1 million to the National Museum of African American History and Culture in Washington, D.C. In Los Angeles he backed My Friends Place, a safe haven for homeless youth, and Stand Up on Second, which offers job training and finds jobless Americans housing.

"The most important thing is that you try to inspire people so they can be great in whatever they want to do," Bryant said.

Part of his message, however, was centered on the sort of sacrifice he made during every off-season—working out at 3 a.m., spending countless hours in the gym perfecting his artistry. . . instead of enjoying his wealth and down-time with his wife and daughters.

"We can all be masters at our craft, but you have to make a choice," Bryant said. "What I mean by that is, there are inherent sacrifices that come along with that: family time, hanging out with your friends, being a great friend, being a great son, nephew, whatever the case may be. There are sacrifices that come along with that."

Bryant won five NBA titles with the Los Angeles Lakers, one short of his idol, Michael Jordan, but more than most. In times of duress, he wanted the ball, seeking the responsibility of a game's biggest moment. Often he delivered.

"If you're afraid to fail, then you're probably going to fail," said Bryant. "My brain, it cannot process failure. It will not

SEE NATIONAL • Page 10

Black Female Prosecutors Refuse to Fold Under Racial Attacks



ST. LOUIS—"You're not alone!" said six fearless Black women prosecutors from across the United States of America. They came to support St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim M. Gardner.

SEE NATIONAL • Page 2

BLACK PRESS: THANK YOU FOR SUPPORTING THE AFRICAN AMERICAN VOICE!

FEBRUARY 2020

Michael B. Jordan Tackles Death Row In "Just Mercy"



"Just Mercy," starring Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Foxx, Brie Larson, O'Shea Jackson Jr. and Rob Morgan, opened in select theaters December 25, with a wide release January 10.

SEE MOVIE • Page 9

"UNITY IS STRENGTH, DIVISION IS WEAKNESS."
~ SWAHILI PROVERB

BESIEGED BLACK FEMALE PROSECUTORS REFUSE TO FOLD UNDER RACIAL ATTACKS



St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner (middle) flanked by other Black female prosecutors including, L-r: Rachael Rollins, Suffolk County, Mass.; Aramis Ayala, Orlando, Fla.; Stephanie Morales, Portsmouth, Va.; Marilyn Mosby, Baltimore, Md.; Diana Becton, Contra Costa County, Calif. and Aisha Braveboy, Prince George's County, Md.

By J.A Salaam

ST. LOUIS—"You're not alone!" said six fearless Black women prosecutors from across the United States. They came to support St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim M. Gardner and highlight the major challenges and difficulties Black female prosecutors across the country often face when they push to enact criminal justice reform and progressive changes.

The women spoke in St. Louis at a Jan. 14 rally on the steps of the Carnahan Courthouse with other supporters of Atty. Gardner.

Taking office in 2017, Atty. Gardner was elected as a "progressive" with a platform that included holding police accountable and reducing incarceration rates. Her term has been rocky as her agenda often clashed with the city's political and law enforcement establishment.

Her supporters contend Atty. Gardner has been hampered by courts, cops and those who are upset at her efforts to institute reforms that would benefit Black and Brown communities that have been disproportionately affected and targeted by the criminal justice system in St. Louis. Atty. Gardner is the city's first Black circuit attorney.

She recently filed a federal lawsuit against the city of St. Louis; the St. Louis Police Officers Association and its longtime business manager Jeff Roorda; a former police officer named Charles Lane who sued Atty. Gardner's office; and Gerard Carmody and his children, who are private attorneys appointed as special prosecutors to investigate her office's handling of the investigation of former Missouri Governor Eric Greitens, noted stltoday.com. The lawsuit alleges there is a conspiracy to remove her from office for trying to institute reforms in the city and other aspects of the job she was elected to do.

"Gardner was elected in 2016 on a promise to redress the scourge of historical inequality and rebuild trust in the criminal justice system among communities of color. Unfortunately, entrenched interests in St. Louis, including Defendants, have mobilized to thwart these efforts through a broad campaign of collusive conduct, including the unprecedented appointment of an ethically conflicted Special Prosecutor to investigate the activities of Gardner's office and a patently overbroad and unconstitutional ransacking of the office's electronic files," the suit says in part. A spokesperson for St. Louis Mayor Lyda Krewson called the lawsuit "meritless" in a statement.

Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby led the press conference at the rally in support of Atty. Gardner. "What we can attest to is that keepers of the status quo that brought us mass incarceration, the over criminalization of Black and Brown people, tough sentences, no redemption and no second chances won't give up their power quietly," said Atty. Mosby.

In addition to Atty. Mosby other Black women prosecutors who traveled to St. Louis to support Atty. Gardner included Diana Becton, Contra Costa County, Calif.; Aisha Braveboy, Prince George's County, Maryland; Stephanie Morales, Portsmouth, Virginia; Aramis Ayala, Orlando, Fla., and Rachael Rollins from Suffolk County, Mass.

The women participated in a panel discussion later that day at Harris-Stowe State University describing the trials and opposition they often face as "reform minded" Black women prosecutors. The Criminal Justice Reform Forum was sponsored by Mothers Against Police Brutality.

The lawsuit filed by Atty. Gardner "is an action to redress violations of the Ku Klux

Klan Act of 1871 also called 'The Civil Rights Act' and the Fourth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution." This KKK Act is a United States federal law that prohibits ethnic violence which is politically expressed and motivated by hatred against Blacks. There are several allegations in the 33-page court document including a breakdown of "the history of invidious racial animus within the city, its police division, and the St. Louis Police Officers Association."

Allegations leveled in the lawsuit include:

- The police association has gone out of its way to support White officers accused of perpetrating acts of violence and excessive force against African American citizens.
- Defendants' resistance to Atty. Gardner's attempts to improve fairness in the St. Louis criminal justice system.
- Defendants' attempts to intimidate, silence, and sideline Atty. Gardner to prevent her from carrying out her duty to provide equal protection of the law to all.
- Defendants' unconstitutional search and seizure of the Circuit Attorney's investigative files and cooperation of the grand jury process.

Jamila Hodge is director of the Vera Institute of Justice, a New York-based nonprofit that works with prosecutors, and specifically those who specialize in criminal justice reform. "We've been working with Kim here in St. Louis for the last two years providing data analysis, technical assistance, training, and helping with policy change that will help her to implement her reform platform," she said.

"So many people don't know that Black women who are prosecutors are receiving death threats, have been called the 'N-word' and have been sued in their personal capacity. There have also been recent prosecutors elected since 2015 that have been attacked. We see White men; we see White women and they are not attacked in the way these Black women are attacked," said Ms. Hodge.

According to the lawsuit, since being elected Atty. Gardner has taken a number of steps to improve fairness in the St. Louis criminal justice system and has worked to increase trust in the system among communities of color. Among other reforms, she created and deployed the most prosecutor-led diversion programs of any office in the state. She also established a pilot program with the St. Louis' Public



Longtime St. Louis activist Anthony Shahid (left) is among many residents backing Atty. Gardner.

School System to break the school-to-prison pipeline.

One of the centerpieces of Atty. Gardner's bold plan to achieve racial justice and equality in St. Louis was to institute a protocol for independent investigations of officer-involved shootings.

SEE NATIONAL • Page 4



James Tucker

Publisher

Phone: 719.528.1954

james.tucker@africanamericanvoice.net

Undray Tucker

Associate Publisher

WebMaster

Reginald Watson

Graphic Artist

Craig Morris, Jr.

www.morrisjr.com

Columnist

Curtis Bunn

J.A Salaam

David Pourshoushtari

Joseph D. Bryant

Jae Jones

Ronda Racha Penrice

Mr. Alford & Ms. DeBow

Julianne Malveaux

The African American Voice is published monthly by The African American

Voice Newspaper, Inc. The contents of this publication are copyrighted by The African American Voice Newspaper, Inc.

Reproductions or use of content in any manner is prohibited without prior written consent.

Contact us at 719.528.1954 or james.tucker@africanamericanvoice.net

www.africanamericanvoice.net

The Black Press Creed

The Black Press believes that America can best lead the world away from racial and national antagonism when it affords to all people - regardless of race, color or creed - their human and legal rights. Hating no person and fearing no person, the Black Press strives to help every person in the firm belief that all are hurt as long as anyone is held back.



Baltimore State's Attorney Marilyn Mosby speaks at press conference with Suffolk County, Mass. District Attorney Rachael Rollins and Osceola County Fla. State's Attorney Aramis Alaya and other supporters of St. Louis Circuit Attorney Kim Gardner who recently filed a federal lawsuit against the City of St. Louis; St. Louis Police Officers Association and other parties alleging they are conspiring to remove her from office.

KCMO SUES CONTRIBUTORS TO LOCAL GUN VIOLENCE City is the first in the U.S. to file a lawsuit against the gun industry in more than 10 Years



Mayor Quinton Lucas

On January 7, Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas and Everytown Law announced that the city has filed a public nuisance lawsuit against Jimenez Arms, Inc., a Nevada gun manufacturer, multiple current or former Kansas City-area licensed firearms dealers, an alleged gun trafficker, and an alleged straw purchaser over the trafficking of handguns into the Kansas City area. The City is represented by attorneys from Everytown Law, the litigation arm of Everytown for Gun Safety Support Fund, Williams Dirks Dameron LLC of Kansas City, Missouri, and the City Attorney's office.

The first city to file a lawsuit against the gun industry in more than 10 years, the City alleges in the suit that gun trafficking has created a public nuisance by contributing to the violent crime epidemic in Kansas City. The City seeks reimbursement for the costs of dealing with violent crime traceable to the trafficking ring, and seeks an order requiring the defendants to recover firearms that are still in circulation.

"Today's definitive action by the City of Kansas City and Everytown Law signals that our community will not look the other way when it comes to illegal gun trafficking," said Kansas City Mayor Quinton Lucas. "As we continue working to end the violent crime epidemic in Kansas City, identifying and prosecuting those who illegally obtain or provide guns to those should not have them, as defined by law, will remain part of the solution."

Kansas City has one of the highest homicide-per-capita rates in the United States. In 2019, a firearm was involved in 95 percent of all homicides, and handguns were the firearm most frequently used.

Jimenez Arms guns, which all of the defendants are alleged to have illegally distributed, have been frequently and disproportionately recovered at crime scenes in the Kansas City region.

"Gun dealers and manufacturers have a legal responsibility not to ignore suspicious purchasing behaviors that indicate illegal gun trafficking or straw purchasing," said Alla Lefkowitz, Director of Affirmative Litigation for Everytown Law, counsel for Kansas City. "This lawsuit should send a clear message to companies that choose to profit off illegal gun sales: you will be held accountable."

The lawsuit names as defendants gun manufacturer Jimenez Arms Inc., Herb William Butzbach III, doing business as Mission Ready Gunworks, located in North Kansas City, Suzette Nelson, previously doing business as Conceal & Carry, formerly located in Kansas City, CR Sales Firearms LLC, located in Raytown, James Samuels, and Iesha Boles.

The case stems from a five-year trafficking ring, alleged to have been orchestrated by former Kansas City firefighter, James Samuels. It is alleged that, from 2013-2018, Samuels trafficked at least 77 firearms into the Kansas City region, including 57 firearms manufactured and distributed by Jimenez Arms. This lawsuit alleges that Jimenez Arms aided and abetted the trafficking ring by selling 32 firearms to Samuels despite knowing, or ignoring clear signs, that Samuels was dealing in firearms without a license. The suit alleges that, in some cases, Jimenez Arms even shipped guns directly to Samuels' home without a background check. The lawsuit also alleges that the gun-dealer defendants

aided and abetted the ring by facilitating the illegal transfer of dozens of guns to and from Samuels, including through obvious straw purchases.

The U.S. Attorney's Office for the Western District of Missouri has charged Samuels with 14 counts related to his trafficking in firearms. He has pled not guilty. The charges are accusations, and Samuels is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.

Boles has pled guilty to conspiracy to make false statements during the purchase of firearms and is awaiting sentencing.

As part of the relief sought in the lawsuit, Kansas City is asking the court to order Jimenez Arms and the firearm dealer defendants to:

- Take corrective action to identify and recover trafficked firearms;
- Comply with state and federal firearms laws;
- Submit to five years of supervision by a court-appointed monitor, including observation and repeated integrity-testing; and
- Require all personnel to undergo mandatory training by a court-approved training entity.



For more information, please contact Chris Hernandez, City Communications Director, at 816-513-1507; Morgan Said, Communications Director for Mayor's Office at 816-385-3464, or Adam Sege, Everytown Law, at 617-599-2141.

<https://www.kcmo.gov>
414 E. 12th Street
Kansas City, MO 64106
816-513-3600

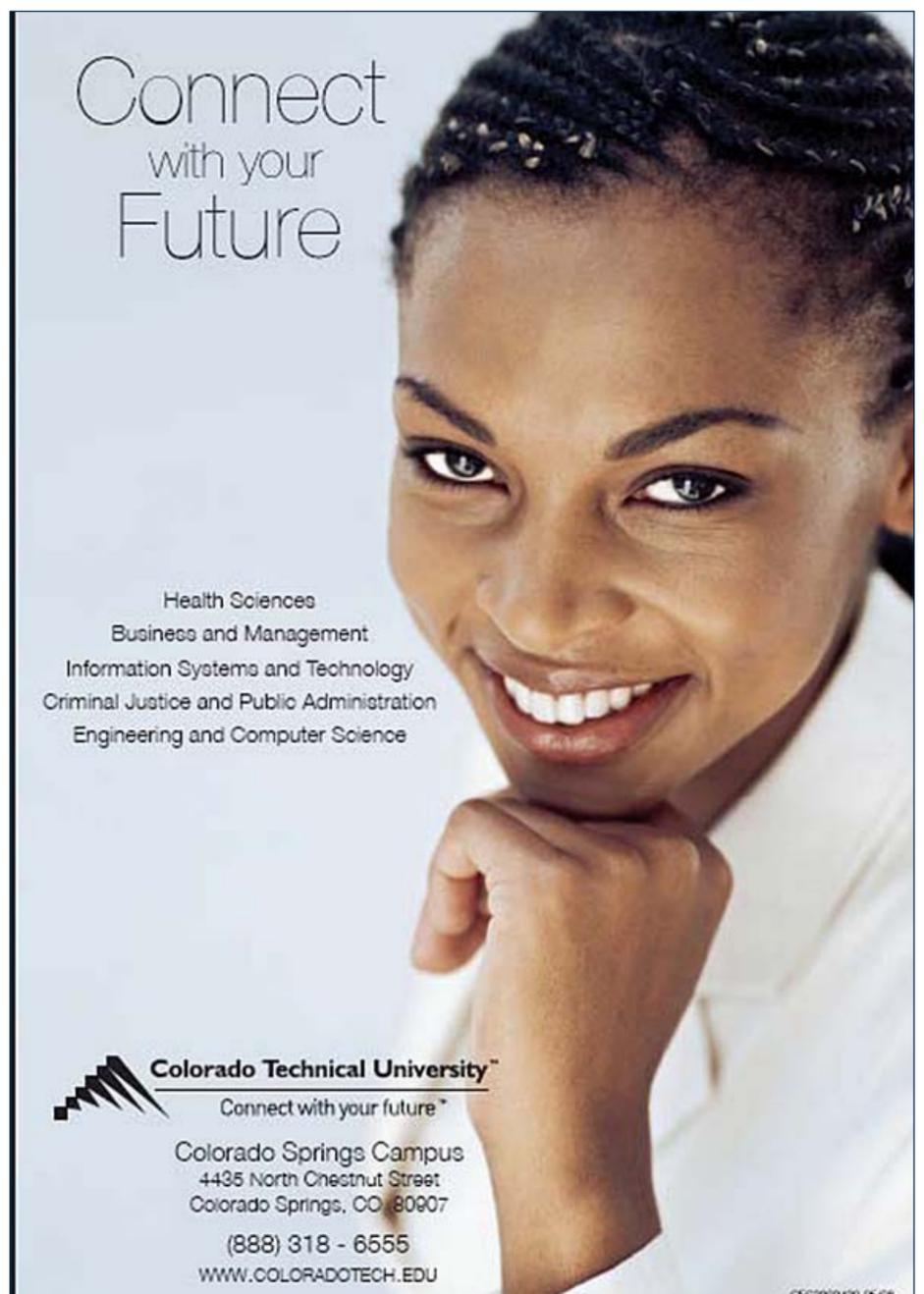
**"A MAN WHO PAYS
RESPECT THE GREAT PAVES
THE WAY FOR GREATNESS"**
~ AFRICAN PROVERB

Connect
with your
Future

Health Sciences
Business and Management
Information Systems and Technology
Criminal Justice and Public Administration
Engineering and Computer Science

Colorado Technical University™
Connect with your future™

Colorado Springs Campus
4435 North Chestnut Street
Colorado Springs, CO 80907
(888) 318 - 6555
WWW.COLORADOTECH.EDU



#CoverUpCory



Morgan Carroll



Cory Gardner

By David Pourshoustari

Denver, CO -- Colorado Democratic Party Chair Morgan Carroll released the following statement in response to Senator Cory Gardner's vote for Mitch McConnell's impeachment cover-up:

"After months of ducking Coloradans and running from reporters, today Senator Gardner did exactly what we've come to expect from him -- voted in lockstep with Mitch McConnell to block witnesses and evidence from Republicans' sham trial before the Senate. Gardner's vote today for his party's cover-up made clear that he has abandoned not only his pledge to serve as an impartial juror in the impeachment trial, but also his campaign promise to be an independent voice for our state. Voters will remember in November how Gardner sold out our country and our Constitution, and put his loyalty to Trump and McConnell ahead of Coloradans."

In the year since he endorsed President Trump's re-election, Gardner has scrambled to avoid scrutiny for hugging closer and closer to the president. Gardner spent months earning front-page coverage for his efforts to dodge basic questions about Trump's conduct, and refusing to say whether he would support a fair trial with first-hand witnesses and evidence backed by a majority of Coloradans.

Despite his best efforts at evasion -- including running from reporters on a moving walkway and going viral for repeatedly refusing to say whether it was inappropriate to ask a foreign government to interfere in our elections -- Gardner tipped his hand earlier this week when the Wall Street Journal reported that he pushed senators in a closed-door meeting to back the McConnell-Trump cover-up because a fair trial that included testimony from first-hand witnesses would hurt his own re-election prospects.

David Pourshoustari (he, him, his)
Communications Director, Colorado Democratic Party
303-704-2834 | david@coloradodems.org | @davidkpoursh



"WISDOM IS NOT LIKE MONEY TO BE TIED UP AND HIDDEN."

~GABON PROVERB

VISIT OUR WEBSITE TODAY



WWW.AFRICANAMERICANVOICE.NET

FEMALE PROSECUTORS REFUSE TO FOLD
Continued from Page 2,

This protocol was due in part from cases where officers are reluctant to testify against fellow officers or even provide investigators with any evidence, leading to what is known as "the blue wall of silence."

The work of these Black women and the support they have shown Atty. Gardner was much needed, said Anthony Shahid. After Attorney Gardner took office her agenda for the city was met with backlash tied to the White power structure, said the longtime St. Louis activist.

"The mere fact they think that they don't need to be reformed is a problem and the mere fact that they think that the police is not doing anything wrong is a problem. The minute my sister started checking them out and started looking at things, and started listening to the people who were saying they were having a problem, it became a problem to the White power structure," he told The Final Call.

"Each one of those individual sisters, they had these people doggin' them in their individual city but Allah blessed them to do what the Honorable Elijah Muhammad said, 'pull your resources together' and that's where your strength is at," he said. According to Heather Taylor, president of the Ethical Society of Police Officers, "Anyone denying Circuit Attorney Kimberly Gardner's allegation of racism in SLMPD has chosen to disregard the voice of the Ethical Society of Police Officers, park rangers, deputy marshals, and civilians who have repeatedly exposed racism and corruption in the St. Louis Metropolitan Police Department (SLMPD)."

The Ethical Society of Police, a Black police group in St. Louis, said while it could not verify all aspects of Atty. Gardner's lawsuit, it agreed "that there is an environment of racism in SLMPD that has failed to adequately remove racism in our ranks."

"Whether officers agree with none or some of the policies of the circuit attorney, some of the antics of the St. Louis Police Officers Association's toward the circuit attorney are vile and steeped in a racially biased agenda that is often spearheaded by their business manager, Jeffrey Roorda," added Ms. Taylor.

In a pre-written statement Mr. Roorda refuted Atty. Gardner's claim that he and other critics have conspired to prevent her from doing her job as prosecutor. He contends, "That nothing could be further from the truth."

"My police officers and I want her to do her job. We want her to stand up for innocent victims, put dangerous criminals behind bars and respect the rule of law. She has not done her job and this lawsuit demonstrates that she has no intentions of doing the important work of defending the most vulnerable citizens in America's deadliest city," he argued.

Atty. Gardner's supporters remain steadfast. Many of them contend that at the heart of the most challenging difficulty Atty. Gardner is experiencing is largely due to her prosecution of former Gov. Greitens, who resigned his office. In February 2018, Atty. Gardner charged the former governor with felony evasion of privacy relating to alleged action associated with an extramarital affair before becoming governor. After the release of a 24-page report from a Missouri legislative committee, dozens of legislators and other elected officials both Republican and Democrat reiterated calls for Gov. Greitens to step down. Atty. Gardner hired a special investigator, former FBI agent of 23 years William Tisaby who was later charged with seven felony counts including multiple perjury charges. His alleged conduct during the investigation was a factor in prosecutors dropping the felony invasion of privacy charge against the governor.

On Jan. 15 the Ethical Society of Police held a press conference declaring their support for Atty. Gardner and Ms. Taylor and Atty. Mosby revealed she had received a voicemail allegedly from a White female calling prosecutors "Black b--ches," the N-word and other racial slurs.

"Kim Gardner has done a spectacular job as chief prosecutor of St. Louis. Her fearless faithfulness to law, and due process has been her foundation since elected. She does not litigate by personal political motives but on the basis of law no matter what status of a citizen," said Spencer Lamar Booker, pastor of St. Paul African Methodist Episcopal Church.

"The nation is watching, the prosecuting attorneys across this country are watching and the citizens of St. Louis are watching. Most of all, God Almighty is watching!" he added.

During the community gathering and panel discussion, the six visiting U.S. prosecutors answered questions and talked about their personal experiences as Black women. Later, Atty. Gardner entered the standing roomonly crowd where she reiterated the "unthinkable challenges" she and other Black female prosecutors who focus on criminal justice reform face. She affirmed that her experiences in St. Louis vary little from similar experiences of other Black female prosecutors around the county who attempt to make bold changes.

Atty. Gardner believes these changes may better the lives of Black and Brown people in particular, and people in general.

"No longer are we going to sit here and have the powerful few get together and choose to take out the peoples' voice. This is not about Kim Gardner. This is about the people who elected us to do our job. I want to make sure that a person that acts like Kim Gardner can exist after Kim Gardner," she said.

Tariqah Shakir-Muhammad and Final Call staff contributed to this report.



Contact Us

3835 Elm Street, Unit G#
Denver, CO 80207

We will come to your home, office or any location that is convenient to you



☎ 303-558-3806

[View On The Web](#)

✉ Thrive@MileHighFitness.com



Southern Company Announces \$50 million Initiative for Students at Historically Black Colleges and Universities



Southern Company

Initiative aims to provide scholarships, internships, entrepreneurship training, and leadership and career development to HBCU students at qualifying institutions, while also igniting giving from additional corporate partners to increase HBCU funding

Southern Company and its subsidiaries on January 28, 2020 in Atlanta, announced a \$50 million multi-year initiative to provide students attending historically black colleges and universities (HBCUs) with scholarships, internships, leadership development, and access to technology and innovation to support career readiness. This initiative will provide support for students attending select HBCUs within the Southern Company system's service footprint in Alabama, Mississippi, Georgia, Tennessee, Virginia, and North Carolina.

"This investment is a statement of our belief that America needs these HBCU graduates in order to ensure a thriving economy for generations to come," said Thomas A. Fanning, chairman, president and CEO, Southern Company. "We invite others to partner with us to create the scholarships, internships, and opportunities to train the leaders of tomorrow."

Southern Company acknowledges that building the talent pipeline at HBCUs cannot be done by one corporation –additional partners are needed to join in support with matching gifts.

HBCUs have a longstanding tradition of graduating compelling and impactful leaders. Founded before the Civil Rights Act of 1964, HBCUs were created, primarily, to provide African Americans with high quality education and skills development when laws prohibited them from being admitted at predominantly white colleges and universities. As a result, HBCUs have become incubators for innovative and bold leadership. The legacy of HBCUs includes pioneering leaders like Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (Morehouse); Alice Walker (Spelman College); George Washington Carver (Tuskegee Institute); and many others. With an influx of support, HBCUs can grow this legacy by ensuring students have the resources and support not only to graduate, but to excel.

"Southern Company's initiative is a tribute to the legacy of HBCUs as difference-makers for the American workforce. With this investment, we aim to foster a generation of graduates ready to disrupt industries and offer solutions to address the needs of our changing world," said Chris Womack, executive vice president and president of external affairs, Southern Company.

Southern Company's \$50 million HBCU initiative is envisioned as a leadership development platform. It seeks to provide funding for programs that address four priorities necessary for producing HBCU graduates who are ready to become innovative leaders:

- Provide critical scholarship dollars to ensure talented students can attend and complete college;
- Equip HBCU students with access to new technology and train them to use the technology to solve real-world problems;
- Expose HBCU students to curricula, mentoring, and pathways to funding that increase their access to entrepreneurship; and
- Develop a corporate pipeline for leadership and career development, beginning with internships provided by Southern Company and corporate partners, to create avenues to prosperity.

Further details on this competitive program will be announced by May 1, 2020. The first round of funding will be awarded in time for the academic year beginning in fall 2021.

About Southern Company

Southern Company (NYSE: SO) is a leading energy company serving 9 million customers through its subsidiaries. The company provides clean, safe, reliable and affordable energy through electric operating companies in three states, natural gas distribution companies in four states, a competitive generation company serving wholesale customers across America, a leading distributed energy infrastructure company, a fiber optics network and telecommunications services. Southern Company brands are known for excellent customer service, high reliability and affordable prices below the national average. For more than a century, we have been building the future of energy and developing the full portfolio of energy resources, including carbon-free nuclear, advanced carbon capture technologies, natural gas, renewables, energy efficiency and storage technology. Through an industry-leading commitment to innovation and a low-carbon future, Southern Company and its subsidiaries develop the customized energy solutions our customers and communities require to drive growth and prosperity. Our uncompromising values ensure we put the needs of those we serve at the center of everything we do and govern our business to the benefit of our world. Our corporate culture and hiring practices have been recognized nationally by the U.S. Department of Defense, G.I. Jobs magazine, DiversityInc, Black Enterprise, Fortune's "World's Most Admired Companies" list, Forbes and the Women's Choice Award. To learn more, visit www.southerncompany.com.

*Southern Company Media Relations,
404-506-5333 or 1-866-506-5333,
www.southerncompany.com*

Presents the 11th Annual...

*Salute to
Excellence in Education*

Scholarship and Awards Gala

A Program to Honor Educators of Color
Saturday, March 7, 2020 – 7:00pm

DoubleTree Hilton Hotel – Denver
3203 Quebec St., Denver, CO 80207

Donation: \$75.00 Adult • \$85.00 At the Door
\$45.00 Youth under 12 • \$85 Corporate
For information – 720-326-5176 or www.theeductr.com

Check Out
THE BLACK CLASSIC
Card Today!

OneUnited Bank Member FDIC

Corporate Office & Crenshaw Branch 3683 Crenshaw Blvd.
Los Angeles, CA 90016 | 1-877-663-8648 | www.OneUnited.com

**"EARS THAT DO NOT LISTEN TO
ADVICE, ACCOMPANY THE HEAD
WHEN IT IS CHOPPED OFF."**

~AFRICAN PROVERB

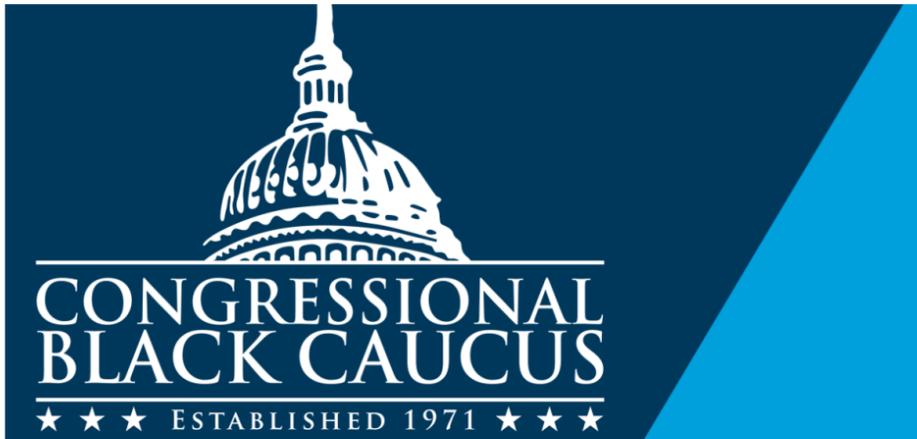
Congressional Black Caucus – “Warriors without a War Plan”

By Mr. Alford & Ms. DeBow

The biggest key to the greatness of the United States is its political system. Our founding fathers were “Prophets” when it comes to wisdom and vision. They put together a system that keeps getting stronger. Like a rare choice wine, it just gets better with time. This is why the most powerful position in this “Land of the Free” is that of federally elected leaders. They not only control the power – they write it; adjust it; provide checks and balances. In the end, our political system is our insurance for continued greatness.

If this is true, and indeed it is, what is up with the Black segment of our political system? Why is Black America the weakest link on the economic ladder for each segment of our economy? When the CBC was founded in 1971 there were 13 Members. Today, we have 55 Black elected officials in Congress. As a Caucus that is enough to influence just about anything that goes on in Congress. My goodness, if we were to join up with the Hispanic, Native American and Asian segments of Congress we would have a base of 115 minorities – educated with leadership abilities matched by none in the world. That is POWER SUPREME! However, while our other minority segments prosper and lead their people to a stronger and fresher “Promise Land” the CBC constituents sit by and watch the others run through the “gate” as soon as our leaders crack it open – leaving us looking and wondering what just happened?

Perhaps what is missing is the fact that our elected Black leaders put an anemic amount of their energy into issues that should matter most to us. America is a capitalistic society. Capitalism is the main road to take in our nation. However, it seems to be the road less traveled when it comes to political leadership.



This is how the CBC describes its goals: “The caucus describes its goals as “positively influencing the course of events pertinent to African Americans and others of similar experience and situation”, and “achieving greater equity for persons of African descent in the design and content of domestic and international programs and services.”

The CBC encapsulates these goals in the following priorities; closing the achievement and opportunity gaps in education, assuring quality health care for every American, focusing on employment and economic security, ensuring justice for all, retirement security for all Americans, increasing welfare funds, and increasing equity in foreign policy.”

Wait a minute! “Increasing welfare funds and increasing equity in foreign policy... focusing on employment.” Shouldn’t we be talking about building wealth? Economic Empowerment? Making millionaires by the dozens? The sacred value of America is the all mighty dollar. The time is overdue for the Black portion of this wealthy nation to start acting like it. Where is our plan?

One of the greatest Co-Founders of the Congressional Black Caucus is Adam Clayton Powell. Anything -law or program- coming out of Congress would

have to pass his “acid test”. He would demand to show proof that Black America would actively participate and economically improve because of this change. His activity would lead to the tenets of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. He and the Black republican Department of Labor officer, Arthur Fletcher, were paving the way for Affirmative Action.

The CBC needs to get back to following The Plan. Whenever corporations, federal agencies, etc. appear before a congressional committee the CBC representatives on that committee must demand to see the plan and proof of Black inclusion resulting from the proposed legislation or rule. “SHOW US THE MONEY!” should be the mantra of every member of the CBC. When they have their routine meetings and hearings, they should review the “scorecards” on how much they are “blackening” the rules and regulations coming across their desks. We have many miles to go to be where we should be. Time is truly wasting!

From now on, every Cabinet Member and agency head should fear coming before the CBC during a Congressional Hearing or Nomination if his track record concerning Black inclusion is weak or anemic. If an agency head is weak in Black inclusion – particularly procurement and

lending-they should resign before they come in or change their status in revolutionary form and deliberate speed.

Come on CBC, “If not you then who; if not now then when?”

Right now, the latest move coming from the CBC is a National Listening Tour. That is Town Hall Meetings across the nation to listen to what their constituents say they need. That is bunk! We already know: Procurement opportunities, business development, capital access like I-40 going west, etc. The CBC can make this happen. All they need is a little organization, strategic planning and courage.

A lot of great people died along this way to Political Empowerment. Let us do their legacy right, by taking advantage of what they made possible with their sweat, blood and tears.

Mr. Alford is the Co-Founder, President/CEO of the National Black Chamber of Commerce®. Ms. DeBow is the Co-Founder, Executive Vice President of the NBCC.

Website: www.nationalbcc.org

Emails: halford@nationalbcc.org

kdebow@nationalbcc.org

“If I fall, I’ll fall five feet four inches forward in the fight for freedom. I’m not backing off.”

-Fannie Lou Hamer

Mission Statement

The National Black Chamber of Commerce® is dedicated to economically empowering and sustaining African American communities through entrepreneurship and capitalistic activity within the United States and via interaction with the Black Diaspora.

Organization Profile

The National Black Chamber of Commerce® was incorporated in Washington, DC in March 1993.

The NBCC is a nonprofit, nonpartisan, nonsectarian organization dedicated to the economic empowerment of African American communities. 140 affiliated chapters are locally based throughout the nation as well as international affiliate chapters based in Bahamas, Brazil, Colombia, Ghana, Kenya, France, Botswana, Cameroon and Jamaica and businesses as well as individuals who may have chosen to be direct members with the national office.

In essence, the NBCC is a 501(c)3 corporation that is on the leading edge of educating and training Black communities on the need to participate vigorously in this great capitalistic society known as America.

The NBCC reaches 100,000 Black owned businesses. There are 2.6 million Black owned businesses in the United States. Black businesses account for over \$138 billion in revenue each year according to the US Bureau of Census. The National Black Chamber of Commerce® is dedicated to economically empowering and sustaining African American communities through entrepreneurship and capitalistic activity within the United States.



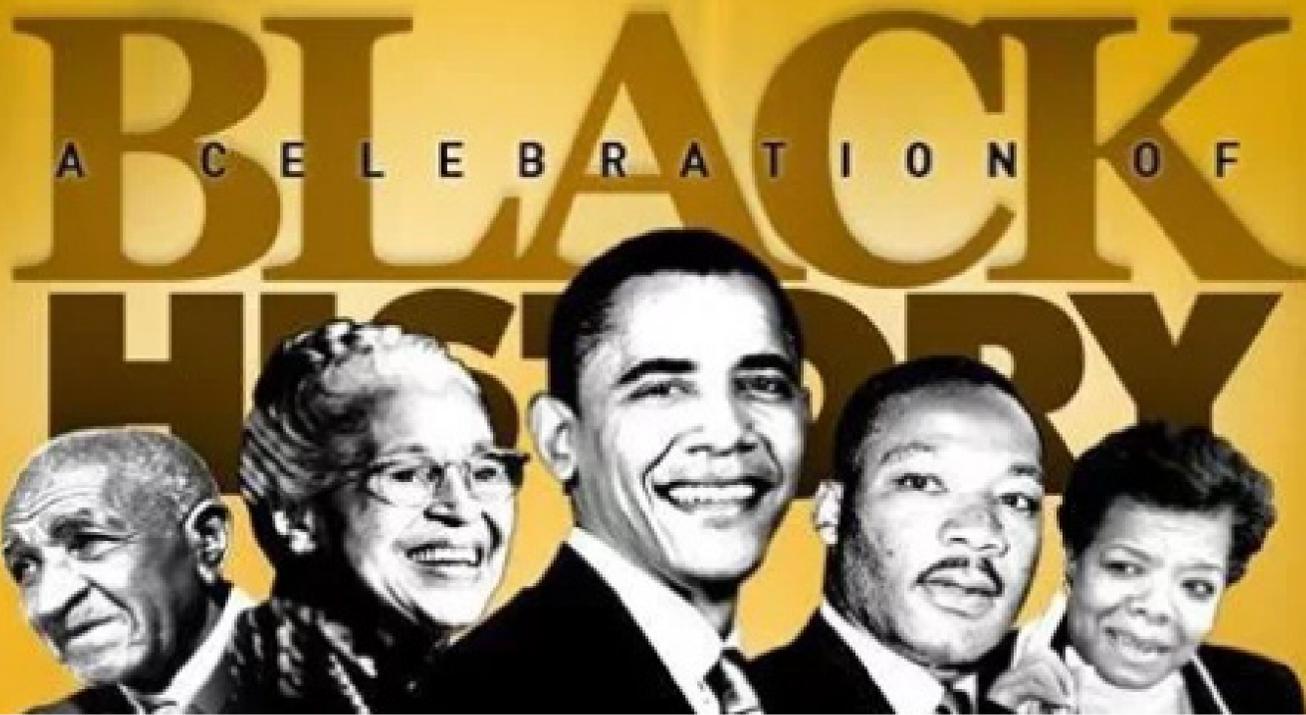
4400 Jenifer St. NW Suite 331, Washington, DC 20015

Phone: 202-466-6888 | fax: 202-466-4918

Info@nationalbcc.org | www.nationalbcc.org

“THE EVOLUTION OF THE NATIONAL BLACK”

~GABON PROVERB



ASALH Announces 2020 Black History Theme: African Americans and the Vote



DR. CARTER G. WOODSON

The Father of Black History Month, Dr. Carter G. Woodson, was born in 1875 near New Canton, VA. He was the son of former slaves. In 1907, he obtained his BA degree from the University of Chicago. In 1912, he received his PhD from Harvard University.

In 1915, he and friends established the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History. A year later, the Journal of Negro History, began quarterly publication. In 1926, Woodson proposed and launched the annual February observance of "Negro History Week," which became "Black History Month" in 1976. It is said that he chose February for the observance because February 12th was Abraham Lincoln's birthday and February 14th was the accepted birthday of Frederick Douglass.

Dr. Woodson was the founder of Associated Publishers, the founder and editor of the Negro History Bulletin, and the author of more than 30 books. His best known publication is The Mis-Education of the Negro, originally published in 1933 and still pertinent today.

He died in 1950, but Dr. Woodson's scholarly legacy goes on.

The year 2020 marks the centennial of the Nineteenth Amendment and the culmination of the women's suffrage movement. The year 2020 also marks the sesquicentennial of the Fifteenth Amendment (1870) and the right of black men to the ballot after the Civil War. The theme speaks, therefore, to the ongoing struggle on the part of both black men and black women for the right to vote. This theme has a rich and long history, which begins at the turn of the nineteenth century, i.e., in the era of the Early Republic, with the states' passage of laws that democratized the vote for white men while disfranchising free black men. Thus, even before the Civil War, black men petitioned their legislatures and the US Congress, seeking to be recognized as voters. Tensions between abolitionists and women's suffragists first surfaced in the aftermath of the Civil War, while black disfranchisement laws in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries undermined the guarantees in the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments for the great majority of southern blacks until the Voting Rights Act of 1965. The important contribution of black suffragists occurred not only within the larger women's movement, but within the larger black voting rights movement. Through voting-rights campaigns and legal suits from the turn of the twentieth century to the mid-1960s, African Americans made their voices heard as to the importance of the vote. Indeed the fight for black voting rights continues in the courts today. The theme of the vote should also include the rise of black elected and appointed officials at the local and national levels, campaigns for equal rights legislation, as well as the role of blacks in traditional and alternative political parties.



Physical Address:
301 Rhode Island Avenue, NW
Washington, DC 20001
+202-238-5910
<https://asalh.org/>

Mailing Address:
Howard Center
2225 Georgia Avenue, NW
Suite 331
Washington, DC 20059

Honoring Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Colorado Springs City Government Officials and The Colorado College Board of Trustees Violate Civil and Human Rights Laws: NAACP and Pikes Peak Justice Commission Support Civil and Human Rights Violators



According to the Civil Rights Act of 1964, institutions receiving federal financial assistance shall not discriminate against others based on race, color, or national origin or activity. The City of Colorado Springs Government Officials and The Colorado College Board of Trustees have historically violated civil and human rights laws by advertising with White only media. They go against Title VI of the Civil Rights Act.

The City of Colorado Springs elected officials supported the police officers who unlawfully and viciously murdered De'Von Bailey. Their officials continue to violate the Force Act of 1871. This act was passed to protect the constitutional rights guaranteed to Blacks by the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments.

There has been very little progress in Colorado Springs for Blacks since the federal law was passed to honor and celebrate the life of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. The legislation passed in 1983. Dr. King's legacy demands African Americans and Latinos to stand up, fight and expose injustice and inequality wherever it exists. Conscious White, African American, and Latino leaders must refuse to accept the conditions that are stifling and marginalizing the Black and Brown communities. The children of these communities are systematically robbed of their destinies.

The NAACP, Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission do not speak for conscious African Americans and Latinos. Their complicity is a mockery of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and his legacy. Dr. King was never about serving the status quo. He was a change agent seeking justice for all, and his legacy deserves action rather than empty words and ceremonies without results.

*Dr. James Tucker, African American Voice
www.africanamericanvoice.net
719.528.1954*

ABO JEFFERSON COUNTY, ALABAMA LEADERS UNITE TO MEMORIALIZE AND PRESERVE FORMER COURT HOUSE JAIL THAT HELD MARTIN LUTHER KING JR. IN 1967

By Jae Jones

BIRMINGHAM, Ala., Jan. 15, 2020—Just days before the nation commemorated the birth of Martin Luther King Jr., officials in Jefferson County announced plans to preserve and share a little known, yet significant piece of civil rights history sitting silently at the courthouse in downtown Birmingham.

Jefferson County President Pro-Tem Lashunda Scales recently presented a unanimously approved resolution to memorialize and preserve the former county jail and its surviving cells located on the seventh floor inside the County Courthouse.

It was on the seventh floor in late 1967 that King was confined following his arrest after getting off an airplane in Birmingham. This would become the last of his numerous arrests for civil disobedience, as the civil rights martyr was assassinated just months later on April 4, 1968.

"As the Jefferson County commission president pro-tem, I believe we should preserve Jefferson County's history, while embracing the spirit of change that exists today," Scales said.

Scales also noted that while King's 1963 arrest and his "Letter from Birmingham Jail," written while in the city jail, is world famous, few know about his stays in the Jefferson County jails at both courthouses in Birmingham and Bessemer.

A portion of the former jail remains on the seventh floor, including two cells. Scales' resolution seeks to bring attention to the history that stands silently upstairs. Eventually, Scales will take additional steps to preserve the artifact and make it available for public viewing.

Pettway also appeared before the commission to support the resolution and present several rarely seen historic photos and booking documents that showcase King's connection to the jail.

"As the first African American sheriff to represent Jefferson County, it is very important to memorialize the work of King and others, which is the reason I am here today," Pettway said. "I want to educate people and I want the public to understand what this man did for us. It was a continuing sacrifice."

Scales called the resolution a first step



in finally acknowledging an invaluable piece of county, state and national history.

"Martin Luther King's famous 'I Have a Dream' speech is manifesting itself in the way Jefferson County is perceived today in Alabama as well as the nation," Scales said. "In order for Jefferson county to move forward, it must first recognize its past mistakes, correct actions of old, and

move forward with a sincere intent to embrace people from all walks of life."

*PR Newswire, A Cision Company
200 Vesey St., 19th Floor, New York, NY, 10281
www.prnewswire.com*

Arthur Alfonso Schomburg: Helped Lay the Foundation for African-American Studies

By Joseph D. Bryant



Arthur “Arturo” Alfonso Schomburg was a pioneering historian and scholar who helped lay the foundation for the field of African and African-American studies. Schomburg dedicated his life to educating, collecting, and sharing research about the black experience.

Schomburg was born on January 24, 1874, in Puerto Rico. His mother, Mary Joseph, never married his father, Carlos Federico Schomburg, who was of mixed German and Puerto Rican heritage. Schomburg was raised mostly by his mother, who worked as a midwife. It was when an elementary school teacher claimed that black people had no history or heroes that Schomburg decided he would set out to find all he could about African and African-American History. He first delved into the history of black Puerto Ricans to find out their many accomplishments.

By the age of 17, Schomburg left the Caribbean for America. He settled in a Cuban community in Manhattan and found work as a bellhop, elevator operator, and porter. He attended classes at Manhattan Central High School. He later became politically active and served as the secretary of a group called Las Dos Antillas.

In 1898, when the Spanish-American War resulted in American control over Puerto Rico and Cuba, Schomburg became disillusioned with Caribbean nationalism and turned his attention to the experience of people of African descent. By 1911, Schomburg had become lodge master of El Sol de Cuba.

That same year, at age 37, he became a founding member of the Negro Society for Historical Research, a group that aimed to promote black literary and artistic expression.

Schomburg was also active in the American Negro Academy, along with prominent black intellectuals like W.E.B. Du Bois. In 1920, he became the president of the Academy and held that title until the group disbanded in 1929. Through his involvement with these varied civic groups, Schomburg became a prominent figure in the Harlem Renaissance, and was also known for raising awareness of black culture and history. Schomburg wrote extensively and was constantly adding to his literature collection, as he had over 5,000 books, manuscripts, pamphlets, and papers.

In 1926, Schomburg’s collection was purchased through a grant from the Carnegie Foundation to help establish the Division of Negro Literature History and Prints collection at the 135th Street Branch of the New York Public Library. Schomburg died in 1936.

http://welcometoharlem.com/arthur_schomburg

**“HOLD A TRUE
FRIEND WITH
BOTH HANDS.”**
~ AFRICAN
PROVERB

2020 BLACK HISTORY MONTH THEME: OUR RIGHT TO VOTE!



OUR 2020 THEME FOR BLACK HISTORY MONTH IS OUR “RIGHT TO VOTE”! 2020 marks the 150th anniversary of the 15th Amendment (February 3, 1870) and Black men’s right to vote and the 100th anniversary of the 19th Amendment (August 26, 1920) and Black women’s right to vote.

Voting and civil rights translate into our economic well-being. We can #BankBlack and #BuyBlack today because of the legacy of our ancestors who fought for our voting and civil rights.

“There’s no such thing as a vote that doesn’t matter. It all matters.” – Barack Obama

We agree with the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALH), the “Right to Vote” theme speaks to the ongoing struggle on the part of both Black men and women for voting rights. Through voting-rights campaigns and lawsuits, we have made our voices heard as to the importance of the right to vote. The fight for Black voting rights continues in courts today.

“Your vote matters. If it didn’t, why would some people keep trying to take it away?” – John Lewis

The theme of the “Right to Vote” also includes the rise of black elected and appointed officials at the local and national levels, campaigns for equal rights legislation, as well as the role of Black men and women in political parties.

“Every election is determined by the people who show up.” – Larry J. Sabato

Given this important 2020 Black History Month theme, we ask you to make sure you are registered to vote and all of your family and friends are registered. We must all VOTE in 2020!

Our community’s dream is now a reality! OneUnited Bank is fulfilling the hundred year old civil rights dream by garnering the savings power of our communities and channeling it back into urban communities for economic development. With your support by simply opening an FDIC insured account with great rates, we will continue to accomplish this dream everyday!

www.oneunited.com



Eastside Express
RESTAURANT

Open until 8pm
1950 State Street, East Saint Louis, Illinois 62205
CALL IN YOUR ORDER AT **618.857.2548**

THE CHOICE

3265 South Jefferson Ave
St. Louis, MO 63118
314.776.5700

Gulf Shores
RESTAURANT & GRILL
"Your cajun treat"

12528 Olive Blvd.
Creve Coeur, MO 63141
(314) 878-3306
www.gulfshoresrestaurantandgrill.com



HUNGRY?
Something for Everyone!
Big Shake's Hot Chicken & Fish

CHICKEN & WAFFLES

SHRIMP BURGERS

OR TRY A COMBO PLATE!

DINER'S DELIGHT

(314) 776-9570
1504 S COMPTON AVE
ST. LOUIS, MO 63104

You're Invited!

My husband and I started our first restaurant in January of 2014 in Franklin, TN. It was a simple vision, Good Food + Good Music = Good Times! Please come out and try one of our dishes and enjoy this discount. Looking forward to meeting you!

15% OFF
Exp. 2.28.20

SHAWN & ROBIN DAVIS
1203 Murfreesboro Road | Franklin, TN
671 Martin Road SW | Huntsville, AL
720 Rivergate Pkwy Suite B | Goodlettsville, TN
www.BigShakesHotChicken.com



African Naturals

The Best Stores For Life Essentials Since 2012

Herbs - Vitamins - Sport Nutritions - Beauty - Groceries & More.

Yes, We Do Price Match

on an identical, in-stock item at everyday prices from any local retailer.

4511 S. Kingshighway, Blvd.
Saint Louis, MO. 63109.

www.IShopNaturals.com

We Ship Nationwide & US Military-Bases Worldwide.

Mon-Sat: 10am - 8pm & Sun: 10am - 5pm

Ph: (314) 768-0710. C: (314) 255-4258



NEW SURVEY SHOWS HOW DEBT IMPACTS FINANCIAL HABITS



(NAPSI)—At a time when Americans hold a record \$14 trillion of debt, including mortgages, credit card and student loan debt, according to the New York Federal Reserve, Americans may still be doing better than they realize when it comes to debt.

A new survey from New York Life Insurance Company suggests that although debt is growing, the challenge of paying it off is not insurmountable. In fact, slightly more than a third of respondents (35 percent) say they've never had more than \$5,000 in debt. Moreover, nearly two-thirds (62 percent) of Millennials say they've never had more than \$10k in debt, and a majority of respondents overall have either paid off all or more than half of their debt (35 percent and 27 percent, respectively). Among those who have the highest amounts of debt—\$75k or more—over half (55 percent) have paid off all or more than half.

“Debt can be an enormous stressor for the household, with many Americans feeling like any amount of debt is a roadblock to achieving all other financial milestones,” says Brian Madgett, Head of Consumer Education at New York Life. “However, this data paints a more optimistic picture and suggests that those struggling with debt today can overcome it by following some key steps.”

Paying debt requires discipline—A habit that has extended to other money matters

Managing debt effectively requires attention to detail and thoughtful planning. Given that a significant number of respondents have paid off all or some of their debt, the data suggests Americans are strengthening their financial muscles through a variety of good habits. For example, 37 percent of respondents say following a personal budget was most important to them when their debt was at its highest level. Almost half (46 percent) say they would contribute to a long-term savings/emergency fund if they had no debt at all. Of those who have had the greatest debt burdens (\$75k or more) and have completely paid it off, 46 percent follow a personal financial budget and 32 percent are contributing to a retirement fund—figures that are higher than the habits reported by the general survey population.

Help wanted

Getting out of debt is challenging, and according to the survey data, many adults are “going it alone.” More than one third (35 percent) say they did not have help paying down their debt when it was at its highest level. When breaking down the data according to various debt levels, this lack of support becomes even more evident, with at least 42 percent of people with \$5,000—75,000 in debt saying they didn't have any help. Only about one in four respondents (23 percent) say they either currently or previously worked with a financial professional, and another one in five respondents (21 percent) say that they have not but would like to do so. These findings suggest respondents may not fully realize the accessibility or usefulness of a professional as a resource to help get their money habits on track.

The top choices among respondents who said they have not worked with a financial professional, but would like to in the future, indicated they would work with a professional when they have more money saved (34%), they are making more money (32%) or they find a financial professional they trust (27%).

“It's a savvy move to ask for help when it comes to money, whether you're looking to get out of a rut or start accumulating wealth,” notes Madgett. “There are many resources right in your community that can offer the affordable advice and human guidance you need to achieve your financial goals.”

To learn more about the survey or connect with a financial professional, visit NewYorkLife.com.

Survey methodology: This poll was conducted between November 13-November 17, 2019 among a national sample of 2201 Adults. The interviews were conducted online and the data were weighted to approximate a target sample of Adults based on age, educational attainment, gender, race, and region. Results from the full survey have a margin of error of plus or minus 2 percentage points.

<http://www.napsnet.com/articles>

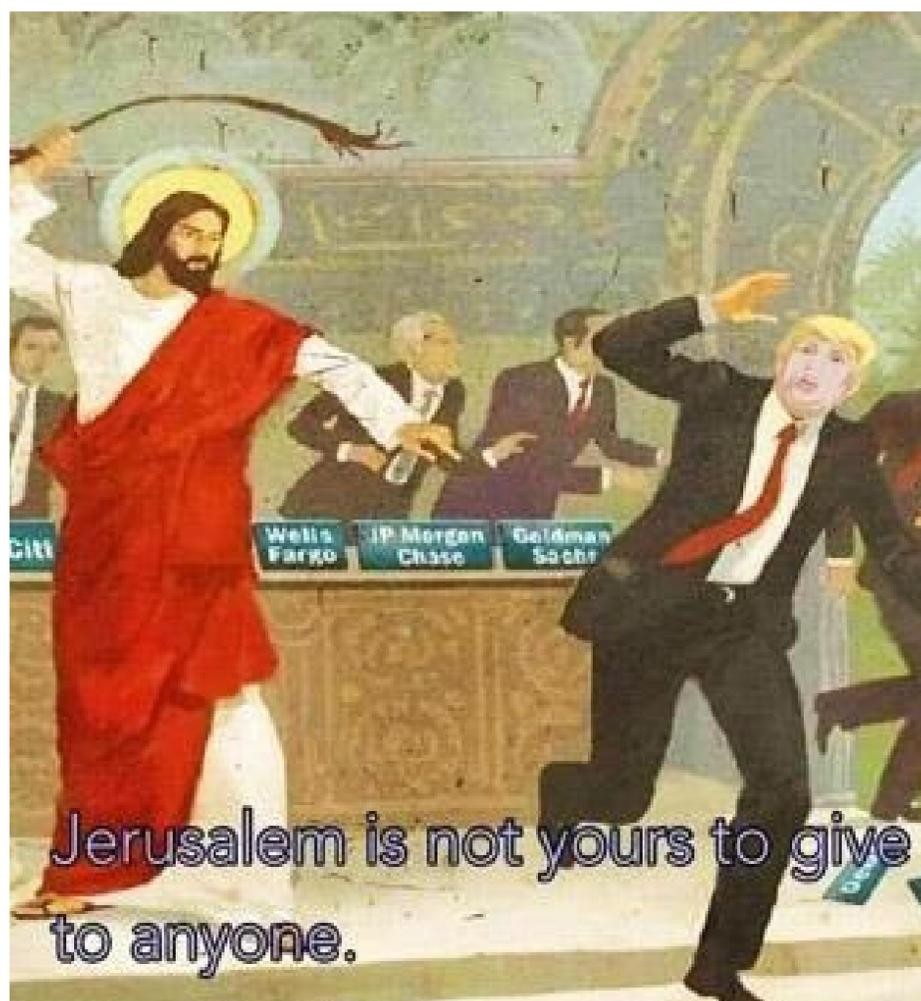
Stay in the Game...

INVEST in YOUR COMMUNITY

**Advertise your business in
the African American Voice**
(719)528-1954
james.tucker@africanamericanvoice.net
WWW.AFRICANAMERICANVOICE.NET



FATAH CARTOON DEPICTS JESUS CHASING TRUMP OUT OF JERUSALEM



Fatah's cartoon shows Jesus chasing Trump out of Jerusalem with a whip in a scene reminiscent of the Christian Biblical narrative when Jesus cleanses the Temple, driving out the merchants and the money changers. In the background are three men wearing suits behind a desk with four name tags bearing the names of American banking companies: “Citi[bank],” “Wells Fargo,” “JP Morgan Chase,” and “Goldman Sachs.” The text on the cartoon says “Jerusalem is not yours to give to anyone.” Fatah repeated this in its tweet, adding the hashtag “#HandOffJerusalem.”



SUNDAY, 5PM – 6PM
HOSTED BY DORIS MOORE BAILEY.

E-mail Doris to share your community event and she'll announce it on Our Voices or call (863) 816-6480 to schedule a radio interview.

Doris welcomes your calls to her show on Talk 1430 WLKF at (863) 682-1430. You can also contact Doris with your comments, questions and concerns via e-mail at DMBailey@BaileyGroup.org or by phone at (863) 816-6480.



spreading the news about people of color

The Denver Urban Spectrum is a monthly publication in Denver, Colorado and has been spreading the news about people of color since 1987.

For more information or interest in advertising your product, service or business with Denver Urban Spectrum, please email advertising@urbanspectrum.net.

Denver Urban Spectrum
 P.O. Box 31001 | Aurora, CO 80041
 303-292-6446 Office | 303-292-6543 Fax

DON'T MISS OUT!



DOWNLOAD THE DENVER URBAN SPECTRUM APP



BLACK NEWS CHANNEL

Phone: (844) 262-3968

Email: contact@btnc.tv

www.blacknewschannel.com

VANTAGE POINT RADIO

January 6, 2020 — On this edition of Vantage Point, host Dr. Ron Daniels aka The Professor talks with guests Dr. Patrick Delices, Dr. Leonard Jeffries, Earl Ofari Hutchinson, Bill Fletcher and callers.

TOPIC

- The Role of Religion/Spirituality and Women in the Haitian Revolution
- The Future of Pan Africanism
- Status of the 2020 Presidential Election

GUESTS

- Dr. Patrick Delices, Scholar/Activist, Bronx, NY
- Dr. Leonard Jeffries, President, World African Diaspora Union, Teaneck, NJ
- Earl Ofari Hutchinson, Editor, the Hutchinson Report, Los Angeles, CA
- Bill Fletcher, Veteran Labor and Social Justice Activist, Washington, D.C.



ALSO

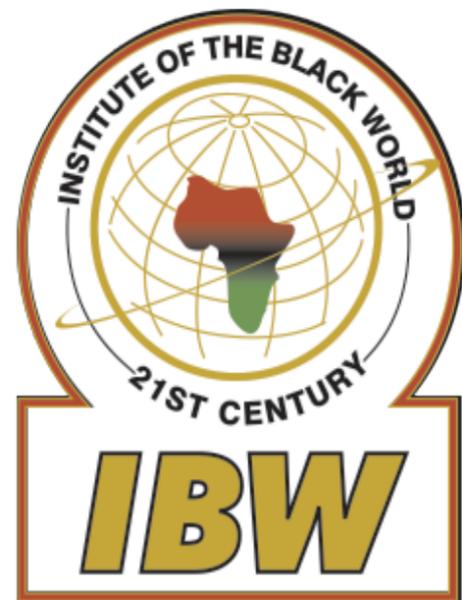
Dr. Ron Daniels Commentary and audience call-in.
 Listen Live Every Mon. 3-5PM

ABOUT THE SHOW

The Vantage Point Radio Show is a weekly current affairs program hosted by Dr. Ron Daniels, President of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century and Distinguished Lecturer Emeritus at York College City University of New York. The show is broadcast each Monday from 3-5PM on Pacifica Radio WBAI (99.5 FM) in collaboration with York College Radio.

The program covers a wide range of social, political, economic and cultural topics featuring interviews and discussions with a diversity of civil and human rights leaders, scholars, activists and community organizers.

Feedback and show suggestions can be emailed to info@ibw21.org



Our Mission

Our stated Mission is as follows: The Institute of the Black World 21st Century is committed to enhancing the capacity of Black communities in the U.S. and globally to achieve cultural, social, economic and political equality and an enhanced quality of life for all marginalized people.

Write Us

Institute of the Black World 21st Century
 31-35 95th Street
 East Elmhurst, New York 11369
 or
 Institute of the Black World 21st Century
 235 Holliday Street
 Baltimore, Maryland 21202

Call Us

(718) 429-1415
 Toll Free, (888) 774-2921

Email Us

General information: info@ibw21.org
 Contact editors: editors@ibw21.org



EXCLUSIVE: MICHAEL B. JORDAN TACKLES DEATH ROW IN “JUST MERCY”



Photo Credit: Prince Williams Courtesy of Warner Bros. Pictures

Michael B. Jordan With Bryan Stevenson In Montgomery

The Movie Star And Civil Rights Attorney Bryan Stevenson He Plays Discuss The Film’s Importance

By Ronda Racha Penrice

Over 30 years after the Montgomery Bus Boycott launched, civil rights activist and death row attorney Bryan Stevenson came to Alabama’s capital city to spark a new, quieter movement against the death penalty. That was in 1989. Working through his Equal Justice Initiative, which now includes a team of 40 attorneys, Stevenson has since overturned over 135 death sentence convictions in Alabama.

One of Stevenson’s first cases – in which an African-American pulpwood worker named Walter “Johnny D” McMillian was falsely convicted for the murder of an 18-year-old white woman in 1986 – is the focus of the new feature film “Just Mercy” starring Michael B. Jordan as Stevenson and Jamie Foxx as McMillian.

Adapted from Stevenson’s New York Times Bestseller of the same name, “Just Mercy” tracks the beginning of the Delaware native and Harvard Law-educated civil rights attorney’s lifelong mission of challenging the death penalty in Alabama and racial injustice everywhere.

The McMillian case was a clear miscarriage of justice, higher courts later found. Despite many eyewitness’ sworn statements that McMillian was at a fish-fry when the murder occurred, he was found guilty by a jury who sentenced him to life in prison before Judge Robert E. Lee Key, Jr. overrode that decision and sentenced McMillian to death. Stevenson’s dogged pursuit of evidence eventually uncovered legal and ethical lapses by police and prosecutors.

McMillian’s real “crime” in Alabama was that he, a married man, was having an affair with a married white woman. “The only reason I’m here,” he said in a 1993 prison interview, “is because I had been messing around with a white lady and my son married a white lady.”

Despite McMillian’s innocence, Stevenson faced long odds and powerful resistance in fighting for justice.

Stevenson’s dramatic story inspired Jordan to bring it to the big screen, as both an actor and executive producer of the film through his production company, Outlier Society. “When I first heard about him, I wasn’t familiar with his work and I was a little embarrassed by that. I was shocked, actually, that he wasn’t more of a household name, [given] how important this man is and the work that he’s doing. So, I wanted to get this movie, get his story, get his legacy out there to as many people as possible,” he told Urban News Service (a division of Zenger News) hours before he and Stevenson, who was by his side, attended a community screening of the film in Montgomery. “If it had that much of an impact on me, then hopefully it will have that type of impact on other people as well.”

For Stevenson -- who is also behind the Legacy Museum, which links slavery and lynching to mass incarceration and the death penalty, as well as the National Memorial for Peace and Justice (also known as the National Lynching Memorial) -- this film gives him a bigger megaphone in which to



Photo Credit: Jake Giles Netter/Warner Bros. Pictures

Michael B. Jordan as Bryan Stevenson and Jamie Foxx as Walter “Johnny D” McMillian in “Just Mercy”

address the racial inequities and the urgent need for criminal justice reforms.

“I’ve been trying to shine a light on these issues for a really long time,” he said. “I just believe if people saw what I see, they would want the same things that I want. And, obviously, writing a book can be influential, but so many more people will go see a movie than read a book, so this is a huge step forward.”

Jordan said making the film has been an education. “I think Bryan’s approach on things of mercy is something that I definitely have a better understanding about,” the “Black Panther” star explained. “One of his famous quotes that ‘we’re all more than the worst thing that we’ve ever done, let’s stop letting that be able to define you’ is something we should take into consideration when looking at a lot of these issues.”

For Stevenson, the film’s message is timely and urgent. “I’m excited about this

moment because things are really tough right now. There’s a lot of division. There’s a lot of polarization,” he said. “Our nation has the highest rate of incarceration in the world. We’ve condemned a lot of people unfairly. I think there are thousands of innocent people in our jails and prisons. I don’t think we’ve done enough to deal with that, to respond to that.”

Stevenson believes movies can be a powerful engine for progress. “Cinema has been really important to generating new conversations. If that happens as a result of this film, I will be really excited.”

“Just Mercy,” starring Michael B. Jordan, Jamie Foxx, Brie Larson, O’Shea Jackson Jr. and Rob Morgan, opened in select theaters December 25, with a wide release January 10.

Urban News Service
109 N. Henry St. Alexandria, VA 22314
Office: 703-872-7840 | Cell: 202-486-8072
www.urbannewsservice.com

“I got my start by giving myself a start.”

-Madame CJ Walker

WILL A WOMAN BE PRESIDENT IN 2020?



Amy Klobuchar



Elizabeth Warren

By Dr. Julianne Malveaux

In a most unusual endorsement, the New York Times has endorsed both Senators Elizabeth Warren (MA) and Amy Klobuchar (MN) for the Democratic nomination for President. Apparently, the Editorial Board of the Times disagrees with Senator Bernie Sanders (VT), who allegedly told Warren that a woman could not win the Presidency. I'd love to see the right woman in the White House, but I've been among the many who have wondered openly if, in a polarized and sexist United States, a woman can win both the nomination and the Presidency.

Though polls are not a definitive measure of who will win an election, Warren and Klobuchar tend to poll more weakly than the men in the race – Vice President Biden, Sanders, and former Mayor Pete Buttigieg. Have we come such a long way since 2016 that a woman is electable? Can so-called progressive men who want to get 45 out of the White House overcome their gender bias to vote for a woman?

Clearly, the Times not only thinks a woman can win, but in endorsing two women for the Democratic nomination, they are saying that women are the best of the Democrats in the race. And, in the past two years, we've seen signs that women are gaining politically. The women's sweep of the 2018 elections certainly bodes well for women. At the same time, is gender a sufficient qualification for the Presidency? Three years after the first flawed but overwhelmingly successful Women's March in 2017, the realignment of the March "movement" has illustrated cracks in the foundations of feminism.

These flaws perhaps go back to the scuffle over who should get the vote first between our nation's first feminists like Elizabeth Cady Stanton and civil rights activists like Frederick Douglass. In resenting the fact that Black men got the vote before white women, those early feminists used extremely disparaging language against Black men, using terms like "savage" to suggest these men did not deserve to vote.

Can anybody say "intersectionality"? Or to make it more clear, use the words of Sojourner Truth and say, "Ain't I A Woman." The women's march movement fell apart because women were not on the same page. Accusations against Tamika

Mallory and Linda Sarsour, two of the co-chairs of the March caused much discussion and rancor, so much so that the second Women's March attracted a fraction of the people who showed up to the first one. And the third March was operated on a different model. It did not equal the excitement or momentum of the first March, although there were many more local marches and other activities associated with the marches.

Women can't "come together" unless they acknowledge our differences, as well as our similarities. Thanks to Tarana Burke and folks like Professor Kimberly Crenshaw, some Black women are openly addressing issues of race and class in feminism. But I've heard few white women, either politicians or intellectuals, deal with issues of racism in the women's movement. Is there really "a women's movement"? There are women's issues, and women's marches, and an exhilarating display of anti-Trump sentiment three years ago (don't forget that 53 percent of white women voted for that man), but when do women come together?

In other words, gender is not a qualification for higher office. And if the women endorsed by the New York Times do not fully explore the concept of intersectionality and speak on it, they will likely sideline some votes, even though many others would vote for Bubba the Fool to get rid of 45. Both Warren and Klobuchar are exciting candidates. Warren's progressive ideas endear her to the left, and Klobuchar's more moderate approach to social and economic challenges appeals to others. The Times did a good job of contrasting the two women.

But can either win the Presidency? When then one-term Senator Barack Obama ran for President, I liked him very much but didn't think a Black man could succeed in this racist nation. Thankfully, I was wrong. Can a woman win in 2020? I'm hoping the best candidate will win, and the best candidate may well be a woman.

Dr. Julianne Malveaux is an economist, author, media contributor and educator. Her latest project MALVEAUX! On UDCTV is available on youtube.com. For booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.juliannealveaux.com

THE LEGACY OF KOBE BRYANT
Continued from Cover Story,



process failure, because if I sit there and have to face myself and tell myself, 'You're a failure' ... I think that's almost worse than death."

He was a constant thinker, a musing adventurer who won his 2018 Oscar for an animated short, "Dear Basketball," with music by "Star Wars" composer John Williams. He patterned the pace and momentum of some games on Beethoven's Fifth Symphony. He thought of himself as a symphony conductor, leading the Lakers and their global legion of fans in one orchestrated aria after another.

And the ensemble of his opponents never intimidated him.

"The last time I was intimidated was when I was six years old in karate class," he said. "I was an orange belt and the instructor ordered me to fight a black belt who was a couple years older and a lot bigger. I was scared s**tless. I mean, I was terrified, and he kicked my *ss."

"But then I realized he didn't kick my *ss as bad as I thought he was going to and that there was nothing really to be afraid of," Bryant said. "That was around the time I realized that intimidation didn't really exist if you're in the right frame of mind."

He shared that mantra with his daughters, including his basketball-loving 13-year-old Gianna, who perished with him on Sunday. He coached her team, basked in her passion for the game, and was proud she adopted his assertive attitude.

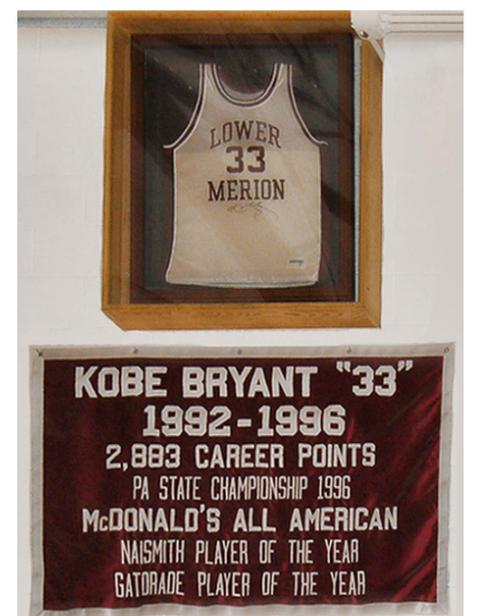
"The best thing that happens when we go out," Bryant said, "fans will come up to me and she'll be standing next to me and they'll be like, 'Hey, you gotta have a boy! You and [wife Vanessa] gotta have a boy to have somebody to carry on the tradition and the legacy.'"

And Gianna, he said, replied: "Hey, I got this! You don't need a boy for that."

Kobe smiled a daddy's grin, broad and knowing. It was a proud moment for him.

"Have a good time," he said. "Life is too short to get bogged down and be discouraged. You have to keep moving. You have to keep going. Put one foot in front of the other, smile and just keep on rolling."

"It's the one thing you can control. You are responsible for how people remember you or don't. So, don't take it lightly."



Urban News Service
109 N. Henry St. Alexandria, VA 22314
Office: 703-872-7840 | Cell: 202-486-8072
www.urbannewsservice.com



We are headed to Sierra Leone!! There are so many wonderful things happening in this wonderful country formally part of the Rice Coast of Africa!! Many African Americans received their citizenship last year, many more will receive this year. In December over 50 African Americans from the Gullah community of South Carolina and Georgia visited Sierra Leone. Among them was Wilson Moran whose family story is featured in the documentary the Language you Cry In. His story is that of a song that was recorded in the 1940's by Scholar and Linguist Lorenzo Dow Turner. The song was found to be a Mende song from Sierra Leone. Mr Moran visited his Mende family for the first time in many years. It was a huge welcome for this Mende brother.



In April we will visit Harris Neck Georgia where his family is from on our Gullah Geechee tour. We look forward to meeting some of you on our tour.



Salone receives largest group of African American descendants



ROOTS TO GLORY TOURS
presents

JOURNEY AFRICA:
CONGO
BRAZZAVILLE

JUNE 2 - JUNE 10, 2020

REGISTER TODAY! WWW.ROOTSTOGLORY.COM

Join **Roots to Glory Tours**
on our upcoming **Ancestral Cultural Tours**

<p>2019 Trips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> March Culinary Tour Benin/Togo September Ghana November Nigeria December Cameroon 	<p>2020 Trips</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> March Sierra Leone May Gullah Geechee Tour May Senegal July Cote D'Ivoire November Congo
---	---

P.O. Box 92 | Stevenson, Maryland 21153
roots@rootstoglorytours | (410) 429-0804

Roots to Glory Tours | www.rootstoglory.com

AFRICAN ANCESTRY
TRACE YOUR DNA. FIND YOUR ROOTS.

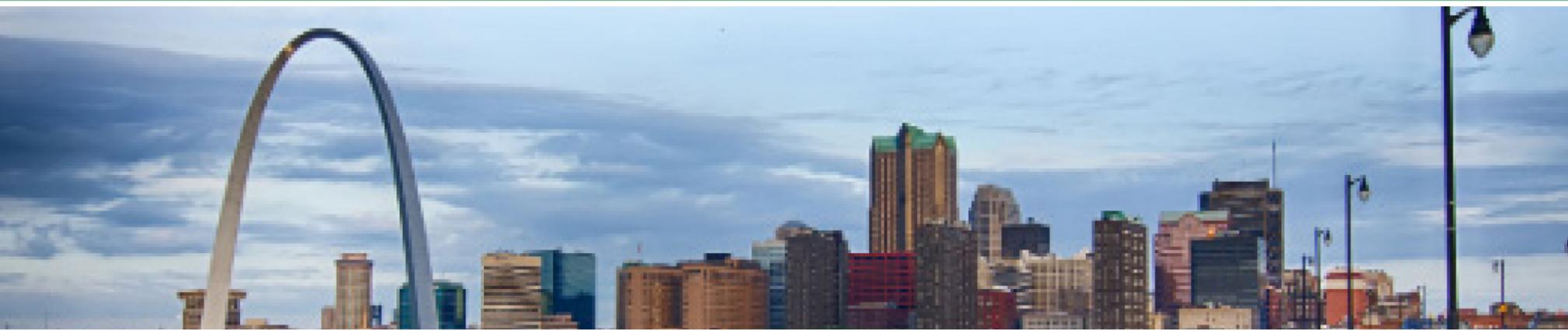
Dr. Gina Paige, President (left) and Dr. Rick Kittles, Scientific Director (right) the African Ancestry Management Team and Co-founders.

African Ancestry
5614 Connecticut Avenue NW
#297, Washington, DC 20015
www.africanancestry.com
info@africanancestry.com

Phone: (202) 723-0900, ext. 4010
(Monday – Friday, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm EST)
Fax: (202) 318-0742
Customer Care: (202) 723-0900, ext. 4014 (Monday – Friday, 9:00 am to 6:00 pm EST)



COMMUNITY NETWORK



ST. LOUIS CITY AND ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOYCOTT FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL JUSTICE

The St. Louis County and St. Louis City Boycott consist of grassroots organizations dedicated to exposing the injustice and unfair treatment of African Americans. Missouri is ground zero for the modern day civil rights movement.

REMEMBER, MISSOURI WAS A SLAVE STATE.

Arab Businesses



AVIS



St. Louis Galleria in Richmond Heights



Dillard's



jetBlue



Walmart



Schnucks



SAINT LOUIS UNIVERSITY

EST. 1818

*Study the history of slavery and SLU



NEWS

BOYCOTT IMMEDIATELY

"WE HAVE TRIED EVERYTHING ELSE, NOW IT'S TIME FOR AN ECONOMIC BOYCOTT,"

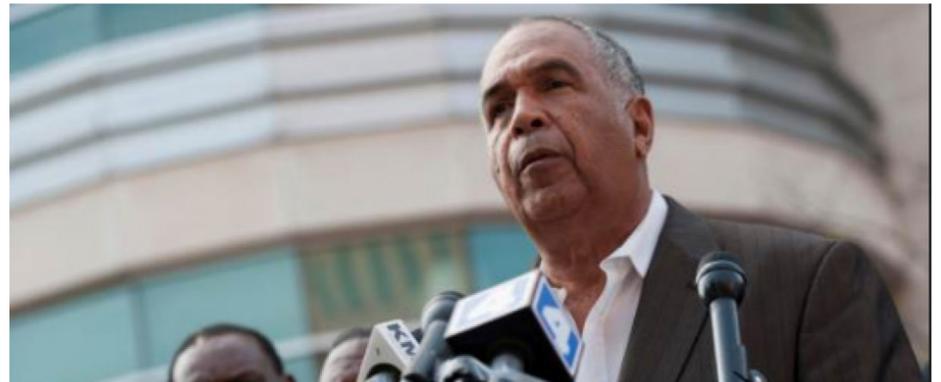
ORGANIZER REV. DINAH TATMAN SAID IN A STATEMENT.

"SINCE WE ARE A NATION WHERE ALL MEN ARE SUPPOSED TO BE CREATED EQUAL, IT'S TIME TO REDISTRIBUTE THE PAIN."

NO JUSTICE. NO PROFIT.

NOJUSTICENOPROFIT.US | FB: NO JUSTICE NO PROFIT

NOJUSTICENOPROFITOFFICIAL@GMAIL.COM | 314.974.4876



PRESIDENT, VETERAN HUMAN RIGHTS ACTIVIST AND LEADER OF THE UNIVERSAL PEOPLE ORGANIZATION "WE SUPPORT THE BOYCOTT."

-ZAKI BARUTI

FB: UNIVERSAL AFRICAN PEOPLE ORGANIZATION | WWW.UAPO.ORG

