

Celebrate the 49th Anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*

MARCHING TOWARD JUSTICE COMES HOME!

2003 Detroit Events

January 20th, MLK, Jr.
Pre-Luncheon Reception
10:30 a.m.

In conjunction with
the Wright Museum
of African American History
Location: Wright Museum
of African American History

January 20th, MLK, Jr.
Annual Luncheon
12:30 p.m.

In conjunction with University,
Governmental and Community
Affairs Department
Location: Wayne State University
Student Center Ballroom – 2nd floor

May 1st, Law Day Celebration
at the Wright Museum
of African American History
In conjunction with the
Metropolitan Future Lawyers Club
and Children's Judicial Center
of Wayne County Neighborhood
Legal Services

May 7th, Student Teach-In:
Reliving and Understanding the
value of the 14th Amendment
Location: Wright Museum
of African American History,
Day Long Event & Tour

May -, Community Forum
Location: Wayne State University
Open to the Public

May -, Academic Symposium
Location: Wayne State University
Open to the Public

May 17th, 2003
Grand Gala & Celebration
of the 40th Anniversary
of *Brown vs. Board of Education*

Upcoming Host Sites

Wright Museum
of African American History
Detroit, MI
January-May, 2003
Howard University Law School
Brown @ 50 Celebration
(50th Anniversary)
Washington, D.C.



“Marching Toward Justice: the History of the 14th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution” makes a triumphant return to the Detroit metropolitan area. The exhibition chronicles the struggle of African Americans from 1619-1956. The opening of “Marching Toward Justice” at the Charles H. Wright Museum of African American History marks the culmination of a triumphant five-year national tour. Not coincidentally, the presence of the exhibit in Detroit allows all of us the opportunity to celebrate the 49th anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education* in the shadow of the images depicting the despair, hope, sacrifice and courage of the many people whose struggle provided the social and political basis for the recognition that legally separate racial groups cannot be equal.

The return of “Marching Toward Justice” is the result of the collaborative efforts of Wayne State University Law School, the Wright Museum of African American History, Wayne State University Community Affairs, General Motors Corporation, the College of Urban, Labor and Metropolitan Affairs, the Metropolitan Future Lawyers Club and the Children’s Justice Center of Wayne County Neighborhood Legal Services. The Wright Museum of African American History serves as the host site for the exhibition of

“Marching Toward Justice,” sponsored by the Keith Collection, and “The Life of Judge Damon J. Keith,” sponsored by the Charting Your Own Course Foundation.

A variety of events are planned for January through May of 2003 at the Wright Museum of African American History and on the campus of Wayne State University. On January 20, 2003, “Marching Toward Justice” and “The Life of Judge Damon J. Keith” opened with a mid-morning private reception at the Wright Museum of African American History. The exhibitions will be on display until May 11, 2003. The culmination of the 49th anniversary celebration will be a gala, black tie event on the evening of May 17th. Individuals from all of the host sites have been invited as well as Professor Emeritus Edward J. Littlejohn and a number of important civil rights notables.

The Law School and the Keith Collection are excited about the return of “Marching Toward Justice” and “The Life of Judge Damon J. Keith.” These two exhibitions exemplify the interconnectedness of our civil rights history and the proposition that one person can make a difference. Both exhibits demonstrate the importance of courage, inclusion and diversity.

Previous Host Sites and Programs since September 1998

Just the Beginning Foundation meeting
Detroit, MI

Wayne State University
David Adamany Undergraduate Library
Detroit, MI

Thurgood Marshall
Federal Judiciary Building
Washington, DC

United States Courthouse
New York, NY

United States Courthouse
Philadelphia, PA

Martin Luther King Jr. Federal Building and
U.S. Courthouse
Newark, NJ

Harvard University
Cambridge, MA

Howard M. Metzenbaum
Federal Courthouse
Cleveland, OH

The Roybal Federal Building
Los Angeles, CA

The Historic United States
Court of Appeals Building
San Francisco, CA

Museum of Science and Industry
Chicago, IL

Kansas City Judicial Center
& Kansas State Historical Society
Topeka, KS

Annual Meeting of
the American Bar Association
Chicago, IL

Museum of African-American History
Dallas, TX

Bruce Watkins Cultural Heritage Center
Kansas City, MO

America's Black Holocaust Museum
Milwaukee, WI

Grand Galleria of the Virgin Islands
Saint Croix, Virgin Islands

Vanderbilt University in conjunction
with the Nashville Public Library
Nashville, TN

University of Houston,
Athletics/Alumni Center
Houston, TX

Arkansas Supreme Court Justice Building
Little Rock, AR

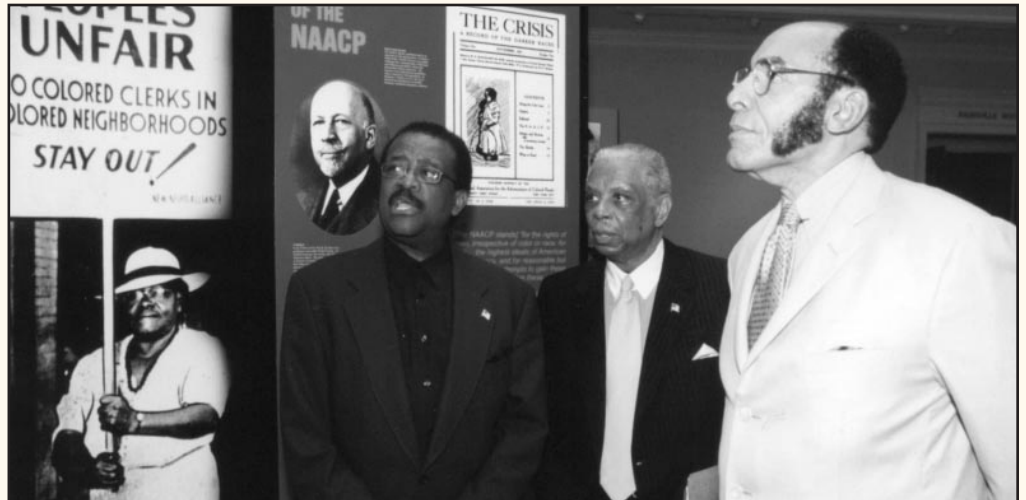
The Nashville Opening: A Night to Remember

Marching Toward Justice opened the evening of May 17, 2002 in the new Nashville Public Library. That library is a stone's throw from the student marches and sit-ins that culminated in the integration of downtown Nashville's restaurants and shopping areas.

The nonviolent student attack on the system of discriminatory laws was greeted with police wielding nightsticks and fire hoses. This history made the Marching Toward Justice opening in a revived and integrated downtown Nashville a truly notable and memorable milestone.



Roderick Gillam, Rev. James Lawson Jr., Earl Graves Sr. and Hon. Damon J. Keith stand beside the Marching Toward Justice exhibit.



Hon. Damon J. Keith, Johnny Cochrane and Earl Graves examine the Marching Toward Justice exhibit.

Upcoming Host Sites

Charles H. Wright Museum of
African American History
Detroit, Michigan
January 20 - May 11, 2003

Howard University Law School
50th Anniversary Celebration of *Brown*
Washington, DC - 2004

Potential Future Sites

Matthew Perry Courthouse
Columbia, South Carolina

African American Museum of California
Los Angeles, California



WAYNE STATE
UNIVERSITY
LAW SCHOOL



The national tour of this
exhibit has been made
possible through a generous
donation by General Motors.

the
Damon J. Keith
LAW COLLECTION
of
African-American Legal History

Reflections on Talking With History

In the midst of planning for the May 17, 2002 Nashville opening of the "Marching Toward Justice" exhibition and celebration of the 48th anniversary of the unanimous 1954 United States Supreme Court decision, *Brown v. Board of Education*, I received wonderful news. Atherine Lucy, who in 1952 was accepted as a graduate student at the University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, was to be a participant in the round-table discussion on civil rights at the famed First Amendment Center at Vanderbilt University. I phoned my cousin immediately and left an excited message:

Was this the same Atherine Lucy who attended the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa where Governor George Wallace would eventually insist that black students would not attend? Was this the same University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa where then Governor George Wallace, who campaigned on segregation, now found himself in the midst of the school's football game which required him to crown my cousin, Terry D. Points, the first black homecoming queen in 1972? Did she know Atherine Lucy? Was I about to be in the company of another person who assisted in forcing George Wallace to accept change?

The answer to all of my questions was "Yes!" As I sat front row listening to now-Mrs. Atherine Lucy Foster, I saw the gentleness of another who had also been born in Alabama. I listened to a person whose goal of securing an education was continually thwarted. Mrs. Foster graduated from Miles College in Fairfield, Alabama in 1952, and decided that the state university was an appropriate place to obtain her master's degree in mathematics. To her dismay, others sought to deny her the right to attend the Alabama State University in Tuscaloosa.

Each time there was a class change, she was driven to a new classroom building; and each time she exited the automobile, she was literally chased by a mob. She painfully described how it felt to run, mob

at her heels, pelting her with debris including eggs, as she sought refuge in the different buildings. Her stoicism and courage were manifest as she told us about her moments of silent prayer in the various classrooms: "God, if this is your will that I do this thing, then give me strength. Or if it is your will that someone else take on this challenge, I will accept that direction." The University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa expelled her three days after classes began on the grounds that it was "for her safety." In spite of all this, she has no regrets about having applied and attempted to attend her state's finest educational institution.

Her description of attempts to attend her local university, a school for which she was obviously qualified, while risking her life, caused me to remember my parents, both of whom obtained their undergraduate degrees from Alabama State College for Negroes in Montgomery. Pursuing real graduate work in Alabama was impossible for Blacks. Having graduated just prior to the 1954 U.S. Supreme Court ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*, they chose to commence graduate studies outside of Alabama.

Atherine Lucy Foster fought her initial denial of education when she was turned



John Seigenthaler (First Amendment Center), Atherine Lucy Foster and Hon. Nathaniel Jones (6th Circuit, retired).



Atherine Lucy Foster

away in 1952 and fought to obtain re-entry for nearly three years. The court battle resulted in a victory, allowing her the opportunity to return in 1956 and commence graduate studies. Ultimately, Mrs. Foster obtained her master's degree in mathematics from the University of Alabama-Tuscaloosa in 1992. My opportunity to listen to and speak with a wonderful lady and a legacy of Alabama history was inspiring. After 46 years, Mrs. Foster's contribution, aided by Justice Thurgood Marshall, still lives.

M. Chiquita McKenzie
Associate Director
Damon J. Keith Law Collection
of African-American Legal History

The Keith Collection Web Site

The Keith Collection Web site, <http://keithcollection.wayne.edu/>, is currently under development. Our objectives are twofold: Of course, we want to use it to make organizational announcements regarding programs and events; as important, we want to create electronic files that provide meaningful content for people, especially students and teachers, who seek to gain a deeper understanding about the struggle of African Americans in particular and the meaning of democracy.

We therefore intend to build educational products that can be reviewed and/or downloaded from our site. For example, the section of the site titled "Fighters for Justice" is targeted at a student audience. Please open that section and then click on Judge Damon J. Keith. You are able to review video as well as photographic images relating to him. We intend to build equivalent sites for Kenneth Cockrel, Ernest Goodman, Dr. Arthur Johnson and many other individuals. The content relating to

Judge Keith was largely compiled by the Charting Your Own Course Foundation at its expense. The work involved in telling a cogent, substantive story about each of these important individuals is intensive and expensive. Our goal is to raise \$50,000 per year to fund the development of the site. In the future we hope to build an interactive site that would allow students to communicate with one another and the Keith Collection.

The Miner's Canary: A Rich Metaphor

Professor Lani Guinier, the Bennett Boskey Professor of Law at Harvard University Law School, spoke to an audience of close to 400 people at Wayne State University's Community Arts Auditorium on November 13, 2002. Her message, "Don't resuscitate the canary, fix the mine," was warmly received. Her presentation, at the inaugural Damon J. Keith Lecture, was made possible by the Michigan State Bar Foundation and a host of co-sponsors, including the State Bar of Michigan, the D. Augustus Straker Bar Association, the Hispanic Bar Association, the Wolverine Bar Association, the Association of Black Judges, the Women Lawyers of Michigan, the National Lawyers Guild - WSU Chapter, WSU BLSA, and the Walter P. Reuther Library/CULMA.

It goes without saying that the problems of racial classification and racism will not go away by themselves. Indeed, America, at times, seems incapable of really confronting these issues and all of the problems related to them. It is in this context that Professor Guinier delivered what can only be characterized as a message of hope. Her metaphor - the miner's canary - is a powerful lens and diagnostic tool for identifying and then treating our societal problems. I and the many students, faculty and community members in attendance left her lecture with a new spring in our steps and at least a note



Hon. Damon J. Keith, Professor Lani Guinier and Hon. Victoria Roberts.

of hopefulness and optimism in our hearts. The Damon J. Keith Law Collection of African American Legal History hopes that its lecture series, traveling exhibits and other outreach efforts stimulate discussion, reflection, communication and other forms of action that help us to extend the benefits of full economic and political participation to all people. It is fair to say that Professor Guinier has gotten us off to a great start.

Lawrence C. Mann
Director
Damon J. Keith Law Collection
of African-American Legal History



Hon. Damon J. Keith and Hon. Eric L. Clay at the reception for Professor Guinier.

The Damon J. Keith Law Collection of African-American Legal History sincerely thanks its major sponsors and supporters for their continued support of the goals of the collection:

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SBC TEACHERS' GUIDE

SBC, previously SBC Ameritech, donated \$50,000 to the Keith Collection to build an educational CD incorporating images and teacher lesson plans. Work on this project proceeded throughout the summer of 2002. An interdisciplinary team of national educators including, Dr. Jesse Jai McNeil (Texas), Della Woodall (Michigan), Robert Edison (Texas), Gloria Davis (Massachusetts), Hilda Alcerreca (Texas) and Vela Ortiz (Florida/Texas) worked on this project throughout the summer of 2002. We hope to bring this project to conclusion during summer of 2003.

To Contact Us

Chiquita McKenzie
Associate Director of the
Damon J. Keith Law Collection
of African American Legal History
Wayne State Law School
471 West Palmer
Detroit, MI 48202
phone: (313) 577-6530
email: ad1083@wayne.edu

Professor Lawrence C. Mann
Director of the
Damon J. Keith Law Collection
of African American Legal History
Wayne State Law School
471 West Palmer
Detroit, MI 48202
phone: (313) 577-5487
fax: (313) 577-2620