

## **THE THEODORE M. BERRY SCHOLARSHIP**

Born on November 8, 1905, in Maysville, Kentucky, Theodore M. Berry was one of Cincinnati's elder political leaders when he passed away on October 15, 2000. He accomplished many "firsts" throughout his life, for example, he was the First African-American Valedictorian, Woodward High School, Cincinnati, Ohio (1924); First African-American Assistant Prosecuting Attorney, Hamilton County (1939-42); First President of the Community Action Commission (1964); and First Black Mayor, City of Cincinnati (1972-75). He received both his Bachelor of Arts degree (1928) and Juris Doctor degree (1931) from the University of Cincinnati. In 1932, Ted was admitted to the Ohio State Bar. The Cincinnati Bar Association honored him with its Trustees Award for outstanding service to the general public and the legal profession in 1993. Ted was active in the political arena, serving on Cincinnati City Council for more than 13 years. From 1945-69, Ted was a member of the National Board of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). He was also president of its local chapter, 1932-38, and 1945-46. In February of 2000, he was recognized at Applause! Magazine's 10<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Igemaker Awards as the Person of the Century. Ted married Johnnie Mae Newton in 1938 and they had three children: Faith Daryl Berry, Ph.D.; Gail Berry West, J.D.; Theodore Newton Berry, J.D. In recognition of Theodore M. Berry's political, civic, and legal achievements, the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati established the scholarship to be awarded annually to a deserving University of Cincinnati Black law student.

## **THE WILLIAM A. McCLAIN SCHOLARSHIP**

William A. McClain was born on January 11, 1913 in Sanford, North Carolina. He attended Wittenberg University (Springfield, Ohio), graduating with a Bachelor of Arts degree in 1934. In 1937, Bill received his Juris Doctor degree from the University of Michigan Law School. He has been a member of the Bar of Ohio for more than 65 years. In 1951, after being denied membership twice, Bill became the first Black member of the Cincinnati Bar Association. He later became the City Solicitor of Cincinnati (1963-72) making him the first Black attorney to serve as City Solicitor of any major city in the country. During his years as an attorney, he has been a member of the law firm of Keating, Muething & Klekamp (1972-73); he was the first Black judge of Hamilton County Common Pleas Court; he served as judge of the Municipal Court of Hamilton County and as Civil Trial Referee of the same Court. For more than twenty years, he was Of Counsel with the law firm of Manley Burke (1980-2003). Bill served as the Director of Legal Services for the Village of Lincoln Heights (1980-87, and 1994-2003). On May 4, 1997, he was awarded the highly coveted Ellis Island Medal of Honor. The award was created in 1986 to honor the many ancestral groups who through struggle, sacrifice, and success helped build our great nation. Bill continues to be honored for his accomplishments and contributions. The Mallory Center for Community Development bestowed upon him its History Maker Award on February 24, 2001. In 2003, the Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce recognized Bill as "A Great Living Cincinnati". The crowning moment of his life came on October 23, 2004 when Wittenberg University dedicated "The William A. McClain Culture House" in honor of his life and career as the only Black graduate in the Class of 1934. He is a member of numerous organizations, including, but not limited to, the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati (BLAC), the Cincinnati Bar Association, the Ohio State Bar Association, the National Bar Association, and the American Bar Association. He is a Life Member of the Fellow of the American Bar Foundation, a member of the American Judicature Society the Cincinnati Bar Foundation and the Lawyers Club of Cincinnati. Bill became the first Black member of the Lawyers Club in 1947, after a heated debate over his admission. On September 22, 1994, he was recognized for this and other accomplishments at a joint meeting of the Lawyers Club of Cincinnati and BLAC. Bill and his wife since 1944, Roberta (White) McClain, were very pleased to hear the announcement of the scholarship in Bill's name, initiated by the donation of the law firm of Keating, Muething & Klekamp. This scholarship will be awarded to a Black law student who is a Cincinnati resident attending any accredited law school who demonstrates leadership potential and dedication to the community. The Cincinnati Bar Foundation and BLAC fund this scholarship.

## **THE JACK SHERMAN, JR. SCHOLARSHIP**

A native of Cincinnati, the Honorable Jack Sherman, Jr. majored in education while attending the Ohio State University, and received his Bachelor of Science degree in 1961. Jack taught biology and general science at a Cincinnati public junior high school from 1962 to 1965. He attended The Salmon P. Chase College of Law (Chase) in the evenings and earned a Juris Doctor degree in 1969. He held various positions while in law school including serving as constable to Hamilton County Common Pleas Judge John W. Keefe. Living by the motto that “lawyers are agents of positive societal change,” Jack dedicated his career to public service. From 1969 to 1970, he was an Assistant Prosecutor for the City of Cincinnati, and from 1970 to 1971, he was an Assistant Attorney General for the State of Ohio. He served as Director of the Model Cities Law Office, a public defender office from 1972 to 1974. Jack joined the faculty of Chase in 1974, where he taught constitutional and criminal law until 1981. In 1981, Jack was appointed to the Hamilton County Municipal Court. In 1983, he was elected to that Court, and four years later, he was appointed to the Hamilton County Court of Common Pleas, where he served for two years. In 1989, Jack was appointed to the position of United States Magistrate Judge of the United States District Court for the Southern District of Ohio. After fourteen years on the federal bench, Jack retired on April 4, 2003. Jack’s professional memberships include the Federal Bar Association, the American Bar Association, the National Bar Association, the Ohio State Bar Association, the Cincinnati Bar Association, and the Black Lawyers Association of Cincinnati (Life Member). In addition, Jack served as the president of the Federal Bar Association John W. Peck Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Chapter from 2000 to 2001. During his legal career, Jack served as the president of the Cincinnati Bar Association (CBA) (1994 –1995), and was a champion for diversity. He is former co-chairperson of the CBA’s Diversity Committee, and was active with the Food for Thought and Lawyer-to-Lawyer programs. His commitment to diversity carries over into his other volunteer activities. Jack is a member of and Secretary for the Board of Trustees of the Cincinnati Symphony Orchestra and is the Chairperson of its Diversity Committee. In addition, Jack is a member of the BLAC-CBA Round Table, which has a goal of fully integrating minorities into the legal profession. His commitment to improving the profession is unwavering, demonstrated by assisting newer attorneys and reminding us of the various reasons why diversifying the profession is the right thing to do. This scholarship, announced during our 2003 banquet, is administered by the Federal Bar Association, John W. Peck Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky Chapter, and was awarded for the first time in 2004. It is presented to a deserving Salmon P. Chase College of Law minority student who is interested in public service and who embodies inclusiveness and a sense of justice.