Dear Program Attendee,

We thank you for joining us as we revisit the indelible campaign for civil and voting rights in this country. After the passage of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, it was apparent that there was still work to do for African-Americans to have full rights afforded as citizens of the United States.

A fearless group of young people known as the Students Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) came to the city of Selma in Dallas County, Alabama, to organize and work with local leadership to push for the right to vote. Citizens of that community—parents and their children, young adults and seniors—were relentless in their efforts on non-violent resistance and activism. With the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, their efforts are now legend. We thank Charles S. Johnson III and Leland Ware for their informative CLE presentations, and pay homage to the 129 Georgia attorneys who were on the frontlines advancing civil rights and equal treatment for all, often at their peril. We are grateful for the leaders of the Selma to Montgomery March and for the work of members of our Selma panel: Joanne Bland, Sheyann Webb-Christburg, Dr. Bernard Lafayette, Charles Mauldin and Dr. Frederick Douglas

“Someday they will have to open up that ballot box, and that will be our day of reckoning.”

James Forman, SNCC, Executive Secretary
Reese, for their commitment to take a stand and their courage in spite of the potential for personal harm. Due to their efforts, our moderator, Dr. Laura Emiko Soltis, finds inspiration to continue the good fight for justice and freedom for all.

We are looking forward to celebrating and remembering the milestones of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, the March from Selma to Montgomery and the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.

Thank you for joining us.

Patrise M. Perkins-Hooker  
President  
State Bar of Georgia

Deborah J. Richardson  
Executive Vice President  
The National Center for Civil and Human Rights, Inc.
About the State Bar

The State Bar of Georgia exists “to foster among the members of the Bar of this State the principles of duty and service to the public; to improve the administration of justice; and to advance the science of law.” All persons authorized to practice law in this state are required to be members. The State Bar has strict codes of ethics and discipline that are enforced by the Supreme Court of Georgia through the State Bar’s Office of the General Counsel. Through membership dues and other contributions, the State Bar is able to maintain programs that mutually benefit its members and the general public. The Bar’s 47,000 members work together to strengthen the constitutional promise of justice for all.

About the Center

The Center for Civil and Human Rights in Downtown Atlanta is an engaging cultural attraction that connects The American Civil Rights Movement to today’s global Human Rights Movements. The Center features a continuously rotating exhibit from The Morehouse College Martin Luther King Jr. Collection, which includes many of Dr. King’s documents and personal items. Visitors will be immersed in experiential exhibits through powerful and authentic stories, historic documents, compelling artifacts and interactive activities. The Center is a source for ongoing dialogue—hosting educational forums and attracting world-renowned speakers and artists who work on a variety of human rights topics. For more information, visit www.civilandhumanrights.org.
10 a.m. Youth Program:
Film Viewing and Panel Discussion –
The Story Behind Selma

3 p.m. CLE Program:
Charles S. Johnson III – The Voting Rights Act of 1965; and Leland Ware – The Civil Rights Act of 1964

5 p.m. Reception to recognize participation of Georgia Lawyers in the Civil Rights Movement

6:30 p.m. The Road to Adoption of the Voting Rights Act Panel, moderated by Dr. Laura Emiko Soltis, Executive Director of Freedom University, and includes these activists in the Selma Campaign:
- Joanne Bland
- Sheyann Webb-Christburg
- Dr. Bernard Lafayette
- Charles Mauldin
- Dr. Frederick Douglas Reese

Dessert reception immediately following.

(The Youth Program will be held at the Center for Civil and Human Rights. The CLE, reception and Voting Rights Panel will be held at the State Bar headquarters.)
Honorees

More than 120 Georgia lawyers were engaged at some level in the Civil Rights Movement and integration efforts in Georgia—from grass roots support of the protesters in the demonstrations, to trying cases, to support for emerging African-American leaders and politicians. Yet still, we as a society are faced with challenges of providing equal treatment to all of Georgia’s citizens. We honor these individuals for their role in the Civil Rights Movement and integration efforts in Georgia.

Morris B. Abram
Miles J. Alexander
William H. Alexander
Orin L. Alexis
Jason R. Archambeau
Marvin S. Arrington Sr.
R. Lawrence Ashe Jr.
Tony L. Axam Sr.
Randy Bacote
Edward L. Baety
Thurbert E. Baker
Sherman S. Barge
Joseph M. Beck
Robert Benham
Donald C. Beskin
Franklin N. Biggins
Sanford D. Bishop Jr.
James B. Blackburn Jr.
Doris A. Blayton
Emmet J. Bondurant
George R. Boyd Jr.
Jerry Boykin
Wiley A. Branton Sr.
Marva Jones Brooks

Carl Cecil Brown Jr.
Edgar C. Brown Jr.
Aaron Buchsbaum
Johnny J. Butler
Allen L. Chancey Jr.
John Mell Clark
Charles M. Clayton
William T. Coleman III
Clarence Cooper
Wayner P. Crowder
Julius C. Daugherty Jr.
Chester C. Davenport Jr.
E.T. “Tread” Davis Jr.
I. Kenneth Dious
Orion L. Douglass
Edward R. Downs Jr.
Jesse Lee Echols
B.T. Edmonds Jr.
Donald P. Edwards
Fletcher Farrington
Eugene H. Gadsden
George G. Geiger
Sims W. Gordon Jr.
Harry L. “Buck” Griffin Jr.
Joseph F. Haas
Andrew J. Hairston
R. Pruden Herndon
Bobby L. Hill
Donald L. Hollowell
Al Horne
Louise Thornton Hornsby
James Mac Hunter
Harry L. Hutchinson
Thomas M. Jackson
John E. James
Isaac Jenrette
Charles S. Johnson III
Howard R. Johnson
Leroy R. Johnson
Joseph Jones Jr.
Kenneth J. Jones
Thomas F. Jones
J.L. Jordan
Vernon E. Jordan Jr.
John L. Kennedy
C.B. King
Willie E. Lockette
Hamilton Lokey
Jerry Luxemburger
Clinton Lyons
James Mackie
Marvin Collier Mangham Jr.
Sidney J. Marcus
S. Ralph Martin Jr.
Wesley M. Mathews Jr.
Bobby Clarence Mayfield
M. Laughlin McDonald
Lorenzo C. Merritt
Howard Moore Jr.
James Moore
Thelma Wyatt Cummings Moore
Charles R. Morgan
Jack O. Morse
John R. Myer
Paul Oliver
Sampson Oliver Jr.
Pickens A. Patterson Jr.
James E.C. Perry
Charles Peterson
Herbert E. Phipps
Romae T. Powell
William C. Randall
Philip F. Ransom
Louis Regenstein
Robert Edward Robinson
Sylvester S. Robinson
John H. Ruffin Jr.
James E. Salter
Thomas G. Sampson Sr.
W. Louis Sands
John A. Sibley
Richard H. Sinkfield
Archer D. Smith III
Robert H. Stroup
Antonio L. Thomas
R.E. Thomas
A.L. Thompson
Randolph W. Thrower
Michael L. Thurmond
Michael H. Trotter
Sharon “Nyota” Tucker
Henrietta E. Turnquest
Elbert P. Tuttle
A.T. Walden
Felker W. Ward Jr.
Horace T. Ward
Ralph Washington
John D. Watkins
Isabel Gates Webster
Charles L. Weltner
Charles F. Wittenstein
Roderic L. Woodson
Prentiss Q. Yancey Jr.

Italics denotes deceased.
JOANNE BLAND, PANELIST

During her lifetime, Joanne Bland has been a witness and participant in some of our nation’s most consequential civil rights battles. Her civil rights activism began in the early ’60s when the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) organized Bland and other area children and teenagers to participate in the front lines of the struggle. Bland marched on “Bloody Sunday” and “Turn Around Tuesday,” and the first leg of the successful March from Selma to Montgomery, witnessing brutal beatings of fellow marchers by police. By the time she was 11 years old, Bland had been arrested 13 times. She has presented at conferences from the Smithsonian in Washington, D.C., to many other institutions across the country. She is owner and operator of Journeys for the Soul, a touring agency that specializes in Civil Rights tours with a major focus on Selma, Alabama.

CHARLES S. JOHNSON III, CLE PRESENTER

Charles S. Johnson III made history when, in 1976, he became the first African-American professor at the University of Georgia School of Law. In 1979, he became the first African-American partner in an Atlanta-based AmLaw 200 law firm when he became a partner in the firm now known as Alston & Bird. In 1983, Johnson became the first African-American member of the Georgia State Board of Bar Examiners and, in 1987, he became the first African-American chairman of that board. A seasoned trial lawyer, Johnson currently practices in the areas of public policy and complex litigation in the Atlanta office of Holland & Knight. Johnson has lectured on public policy issues before a wide variety of bodies, including the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the Georgia Real Property Law Institute, the Association of County Commissioners of Georgia and the Institute for City and County Attorneys. His articles on public law topics have appeared in a variety of publications, including the Real Estate Finance Journal, Georgia County Government magazine and the Georgia Municipal Association’s Municipal Desk Reference.
REV. DR. BERNARD LAFAYETTE, PANELIST

The Rev. Dr. Lafayette is an activist and authority on nonviolent social change. He co-founded the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) in 1960, and he was a core leader in the movements in Nashville in 1960, Selma in 1965, and the Alabama Voter Registration Project in 1962, and appointed by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. to be national program administrator for SCLC and national coordinator of the 1968 Poor People’s Campaign.

LaFayette has a B.A. from the American Baptist Theological Seminary, Ed.M. and Ed.D. from Harvard University. He has served on the faculties of Columbia Theological Seminary; dean at Alabama State University; teaching fellow at Harvard University; Distinguished Scholar in Residence and Director of the Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies at the University of Rhode Island; and is advisor to James Wagner, President of Emory University.


CHARLES MAULDIN, PANELIST

Charles Mauldin was elected president of the Dallas County Youth League at the age of 16. This was the student-led organization that initially began and sustained many of the nonviolent demonstrations and marches that culminated in the March to Montgomery and the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. His parents, Ardies and Thomas Mauldin, were the first and second persons registered to vote in Selma as a result of the passage of the 1965 Voting Rights Act.
Dr. Frederick Douglas Reese Sr. has been involved in numerous marches, demonstrations and roles that have brought change to Selma and surrounding areas. As Selma’s local leader, he signed the letter to invite Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference to come to Selma/Dallas County and assist in the struggle for the right to vote. He marched with Dr. King before and after the historic Edmond Pettus Bridge confrontation and the Selma to Montgomery March. He was the first black man to run for public office, in 1964, since Reconstruction in Selma/Dallas County, Alabama, and served as president of the Dallas County Voters League.

He has a bachelor’s degree from Alabama State University, a Masters from Livingston University and Selma University, and a D.D. from Wartburg College.

On May 27, 2000, a three-mile stretch of Highway 80 East, beginning at the Edmond Pettus Bridge was named Dr. Frederick D. Reese Parkway.

Dr. Laura Emiko Soltis is a longtime social justice activist and human rights educator. She is the executive director of Freedom University, a modern freedom school that provides free college-level classes and movement leadership training to undocumented students banned from public higher education in Georgia. Soltis advances the undocumented student movement in the South by building bridges between undocumented and documented student groups, advocating for fair admissions policies in higher education, and cultivating intergenerational relationships between undocumented youth and veterans of the Black Freedom Movement. As an active public scholar, Soltis writes and lectures frequently on topics such as transnational human rights advocacy, workers’ rights and economic justice, immigrants’ rights, student movements, interracial coalitions, and art and social transformation. Soltis received her bachelor’s degree from the University of Georgia and her doctorate from Emory University.
Prof. Leland Ware, CLE PRESENTER

Prof. Leland Ware has been the Louis L. Redding Professor and Chair for the Study of Law and Public Policy at the University of Delaware since 2000. Before his present appointment, he was a professor at St. Louis University School of Law from 1987 to 2000. He was a visiting professor at Boston College Law School in 1992 and at the Ruhr University in Bochum, Germany, in 1997. Ware was University Counsel at Howard University from 1984 to 1987. For the five years prior to his position at Howard, he was a trial attorney with the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Division, in Washington, D.C. He had previously practiced with a private firm in Atlanta, Georgia, and with the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. Ware’s research focuses on various aspects of Civil Rights law. He has authored more than 100 publications consisting of academic journal articles, book chapters, essays, book reviews, editorials and other publications in academic journals and other publications. Ware has organized a number of academic symposia, professional programs and hosted many distinguished lectures. Ware is a co-author, with Robert Cottrol and Raymond Diamond, of Brown v. Board of Education: Caste, Culture and the Constitution (2003). He is the editor of Choosing Equality: Essays and Narratives on the Desegregation Experience (co-edited with Robert L. Hayman with a foreword by Vice President Joe Biden) Penn State Press (2009). He has lectured and made other presentations to numerous audiences in the United States, Europe and Africa. Ware is a graduate of Fisk University and Boston College Law School.

Sheyann Webb-Christburg, PANELIST

Sheyann Webb-Christburg, the little girl on the cover of this program, is a native of Selma, Alabama, and named the “Smallest Freedom Fighter” by Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. at the age of 8. She participated in the “Bloody Sunday” march in Selma and took part in numerous mass meetings held at the historical Brown Chapel A.M.E. Church. She is co-author of the book Selma, Lord, Selma: Girlhood Memories of the Civil Rights Days, which was later made into an NAACP Image Award nominated Disney movie. She has appeared on nationally televised shows to include: “The Oprah Winfrey Show,” “Good Morning America,” “The Tom Joyner Show,” and numerous other major media radio and television shows as well as being featured in the PBS documentary, “Eyes on the Prize.” She graduated from Tuskegee University with honors in 1979.
A special thank you to State Bar of Georgia President Patrise M. Perkins-Hooker, who not only spearheaded this Celebration of Civil Rights Milestones, but who also valiantly served as the State Bar’s first African-American president, helping to ensure that we all continue to advance civil rights and equality for all.