

John Kasich  
Governor

G. Michael Payton  
Executive Director



# Civil Rights

2011

Commissioners: Leonard Hubert, *Chair* Eddie Harrell, Jr. Stephanie Mercado Tom Roberts Rashmi Yajnik

## THIRD ANNUAL HALL OF FAME OCTOBER 13, 2011

ROGER ABRAMSON

THEODORE M. BERRY

KEN CAMPBELL

NATHANIEL R. JONES

AMOS H. LYNCH

LOUIS D. SHARP

V. ANTHONY SIMMS-HOWELL

2011 Presenting Sponsor:



Founding Sponsors:





OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME  
*OCTOBER 13, 2011*





THIRD ANNUAL  
**HALL OF FAME**  
2011

*The Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame seeks to acknowledge the citizens who have left their mark in the State of Ohio through their tireless efforts in furthering civil and human rights in their communities. These distinguished individuals have served as beacons making significant strides in support of civil and human rights. Through their exemplary leadership they have helped to eliminate barriers to equal opportunity in this great state as well as foster cultural awareness and understanding for a more just society.*



# *Thank You*

*The Ohio Civil Rights Commission wishes to extend our sincere appreciation for the tremendous support from each of our sponsors. This program would not be possible without the generosity and creativity provided through our partnership.*

*A special thank you to our committee members:*

*Dr. J. Michael Bernstein, Wright State University*

*Stephen Francis, Honda of America Mfg., Inc.*

*Patricia Cash, PNC Bank*

*Kim Robinson, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center*

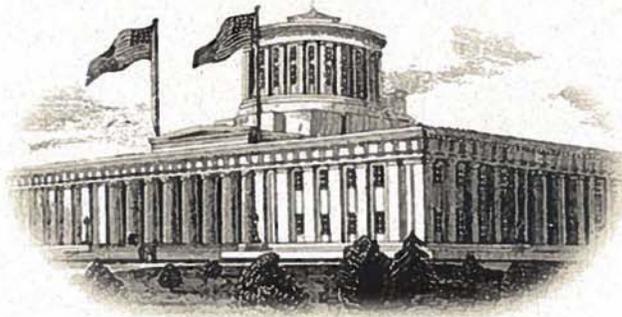
*Jackie Wallace, National Underground Railroad Freedom Center*

*October 13, 2011*



OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME  
**OCTOBER 13, 2011**





*John R. Kasich and Mary Taylor*  
*Governor and Lieutenant Governor of Ohio*  
*do hereby officially recognize*

## **OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME**

We are pleased and honored to extend our warmest greetings to all those gathered together for the 3rd Annual Civil Rights Hall of Fame Ceremony taking place at the Ohio Statehouse.

The Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame was created by the Ohio Civil Rights Commission in 2009 to acknowledge outstanding Ohioans who are innovators in human and civil rights and advance the goals of equality and inclusion. Inductees of the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame have made substantial contributions in support of civil rights, cultural awareness, and understanding in continuance of a more just society.

As the community comes together for the 3rd Annual Civil Rights Hall of Fame Ceremony, We commend each member of the 2011 Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame class for your contributions to the state of Ohio. You can take great personal pride in your accomplishments.

We also would like to acknowledge G. Michael Payton, Executive Director of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, and Mr. Steven Davis, Chairman of the Board & CEO of Bob Evans, who is the guest speaker of today's exciting event. On behalf of all Ohioans, best wishes for an enjoyable and memorable event.

On this 13<sup>th</sup> day of October, 2011;

John R. Kasich  
Governor

Mary Taylor  
Lieutenant Governor



OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME  
*OCTOBER 13, 2011*





# Mistress of Ceremonies

Angela Pace cares about the community. As a TV journalist, she used her visibility for the benefit of many important causes. As a resident, she has an extensive record of volunteerism and community involvement.

Angela is the Director of Community Affairs for WBNS-10TV, serving as a liaison between WBNS and the Central Ohio community. She was raised and schooled in Columbus (Capital University and Columbus Public Schools). She has worked in central Ohio all her life. These kinds of roots give

rise to her unflagging donation to the area in which she grew up.

Angela anchored the 6PM and 11PM editions of 10TV Eyewitness News for 13 years, beginning her on-air duties in March of 1993. She previously worked at WCMH-TV for 13 years. For five of those years she anchored the weekday 6PM, 7PM and 11PM newscasts. During her career at WCMH-TV, she worked first as a floor director (while still in college), and later as a reporter. Angela also worked at WCLT Radio in Newark, where she was a news director as well as a reporter.

Her list of accomplishments and honors reflect her tireless commitment to the community. She currently serves on the board of directors for the Mid Ohio Foodbank, the Lincoln Theater Association, the Children's Hospital Foundation, the Columbus Association for the Performing Arts, and the Jazz Arts Group. She served on the Capital University board of trustees for eight years, and was also a member of the Capital University alumni board. Her work with the United Negro College Fund included hosting their annual telethon from 1987 to 1991 and serving as grand marshal for their walk-a-thon for four years. She was a board member for "I Know I Can" for 17 years. Angela is a member of the National Association of Black Journalists (Columbus Chapter) and National Academy of Television Arts and Sciences, Ohio Valley Chapter.

Among her awards and honors, Angela was inducted into the 1992 Columbus Public School Hall of Fame and received the 1994 Women of Achievement Award from the YWCA of Central Ohio, the 1992 Governor's Award for Journalism and Community Service, the 1991 Woman of the Year for the Pilot Club and the YMCA-East, the Golden Rule Award from the Columbus School Board, the Pi Lambda Educator's Award, the 1983 Wink Hess Journalism Award, the Columbus Education Association's Martin Luther King Junior Humanitarian Award and the Capital University Outstanding Alumni Award. Angela also received the 1996 Toastmaster's International Leadership Award, the 2006 Community Service Award from the Columbus Urban League, and the Lifetime Achievement Award from the Columbus Association of Black Journalists. In 2006, the Columbus Symphony Orchestra board gave Angela the Music Educators Lifetime Achievement Award. In 2011, the Angela was inducted into the NATAS Ohio Valley Silver Circle for broadcasters with more than 25 years in the industry. The Columbus Bar Association has established a foundation in her name. A large portion of the funds from that foundation was used to help build the Center for Child and Family Advocacy at Nationwide Children's Hospital. Angela has won three Emmys and a regional Telly award.



OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME  
OCTOBER 13, 2011





Leonard Hubert, *Chair*



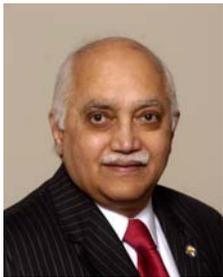
Eddie Harrell, Jr.



Stephanie Mercado



Tom Roberts



Rashmi Yajnik

Welcome to Ohio's Third Annual Civil Rights Hall of Fame ceremony.

The Ohio Civil Rights Commission and co-sponsors Honda of America Mfg., Inc., Wright State University, PNC Bank, and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center are very proud to host this annual event. Collectively, we are committed to preserving the civil rights history in our great state.

On behalf of Ohio's diverse citizenry, we extend our sincere appreciation to the outstanding persons selected today for induction into Ohio's Second Annual Civil Rights Hall of Fame. The inductees represent some of Ohio's finest citizens for their service and sacrifice to society. This celebration of their splendid achievements aims to capture the highest aspirations of our state and nation and inspire others to follow their legacies.

The Ohio Civil Rights Commission is honored to perform its role as Ohio's leader in promoting equal opportunity and goodwill. We are grateful for the opportunity and committed to administering Ohio's strong public policy against discrimination.

A. Phillip Randolph once stated, "Freedom is never granted; it is won. Justice is never given; it is exacted; and the struggle must be continuous for freedom is never a final fact, but a continuing evolving process to higher and higher levels of human, social, economic, political and religious relationship." Today's ceremony will fuel the eternal flame of freedom for future generations.

Sincerely,

Leonard Hubert  
Chairman

Eddie Harrell, Jr.  
Commissioner

Rashmi Yajnik  
Commissioner

G. Michael Payton  
Executive Director

Tom Roberts  
Commissioner

Stephanie Mercado  
Commissioner





David R. Hopkins, President

**Office of the President**  
3640 Colonel Glenn Hwy.  
Dayton, OH 45435-0001  
(937) 775-2312  
FAX (937) 775-3663

Wright State University is proud to partner once again with our fellow founders, Honda Manufacturing of America, Inc. and the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center, for the 2011 Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame induction ceremony.

As an institution of higher education, we have a responsibility to advocate for diversity and inclusion everywhere and to educate future generations on the importance of tolerance and cultural awareness. Wright State is honored to participate in today's festivities.

This year's inductees have been champions of civil rights, not only for the people of Ohio, but also for the entire human race. As the great civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., wrote in his letter from a Birmingham jail in April 1963, "Injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere."

The seven individuals we honor today have been trailblazers in the quest for justice and equality for all people, regardless of race, creed, or disability. They have demonstrated that one person truly can make a difference and help change the lives of others.

My heartfelt congratulations and appreciation goes out to all of this year's inductees and their families and to the Ohio Civil Rights Commission for its ongoing dedication and commitment to protecting the rights of Ohio's citizens.

Sincerely,

David R. Hopkins



OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME  
**OCTOBER 13, 2011**





October 13, 2011

Dear Friends,

On behalf of more than 13,000 Honda associates in Ohio, I would like to congratulate each inductee and their families for their tireless effort and determination they have shown to improve our communities in Ohio and around the world.

At Honda, we believe strongly that our strength comes from respecting the diversity of our associates, and giving each of them the opportunity to come forward with new ideas to help make a positive impact. Putting these principles of diversity and inclusion into action every day has helped Honda achieve more than 30 successful years of manufacturing in Ohio.

This type of diverse involvement has been an important part of Ohio's history and will be equally important for the strength of the state as it moves into the future. To honor the achievements of today's inductees, please join me in finding ways in your daily lives to carry on their legacy of determination and civil rights. If each of us does our own part, we will continue to widen the path of opportunity that has been paved by those we follow.

Again, congratulations to the 2011 Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame inductees. Your accomplishments are an inspiration to all of us.

Sincerely ,

Hidenobu Iwata  
President and CEO  
Honda of America Mfg.

OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME  
OCTOBER 13, 2011





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Mr. Charles Whitehead  
Rev. Darryl Woods

October 13, 2011

Dear Friends and Colleagues:

The mission of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center is to “reveal the stories about freedom’s heroes, from the era of the Underground Railroad to contemporary times, challenging and inspiring everyone to take courageous steps for freedom today.”

This mission certainly applies to our 2011 inductees into the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame. Each one of these honorees has dedicated his or her life to ensuring the basic freedoms of others. Each has demonstrated great courage, exemplary perseverance and an undying spirit of cooperation in advancing human and civil rights and social justice.

In the tradition of the 19th Century abolitionists who devoted every fiber of their being to ridding these United States of the scourge of slavery, the men and women we honor today have likewise committed their lives to a cause larger than themselves, ensuring that all people—no matter their background, ethnicity or station in life—may know what it is to be treated equally, respectfully and justly.

I am humbled to be among all of you associated with the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame. The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center—our board, staff and volunteers— are proud to be in the company of Wright State University and Honda of America Mfg., Inc., in sponsoring this esteemed event, a most important occasion in the history of Ohio.

As with all Freedom Heroes, the honor bestowed on today’s Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame inductees— and their stories that will be shared with future generations— are sure to inspire others to take courageous steps as the struggle for freedom continues.

Sincerely,

Kim A. Robinson,  
President & CEO



OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME  
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October 13, 2011

Dear Friends,

On behalf of The PNC Financial Services Group, I would like to congratulate the 2011 Ohio Civil Rights Commission Hall of Fame inductees and their families. Today's ceremony reminds us that when people with diverse points of view, backgrounds, and experiences come together and work hard, great things happen. The inductees' commitment to advancing positive change throughout Ohio is to be commended.

Like the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, at PNC we recognize that our people represent our strongest competitive advantage and our greatest sustainable resource. The more successful we are at fully engaging and educating our people, the more successful we will be in meeting the needs of our customers and communities.

As we pause to honor the 2011 inductees, it's important to reflect on the significance of fostering diversity in this region. Today's inductees have worked hard to not only promote this significance, but to positively impact Ohio, making it a better place to live and work as a result.

We applaud these efforts and look forward to the continued partnership and dedication to advancing equality in the region.

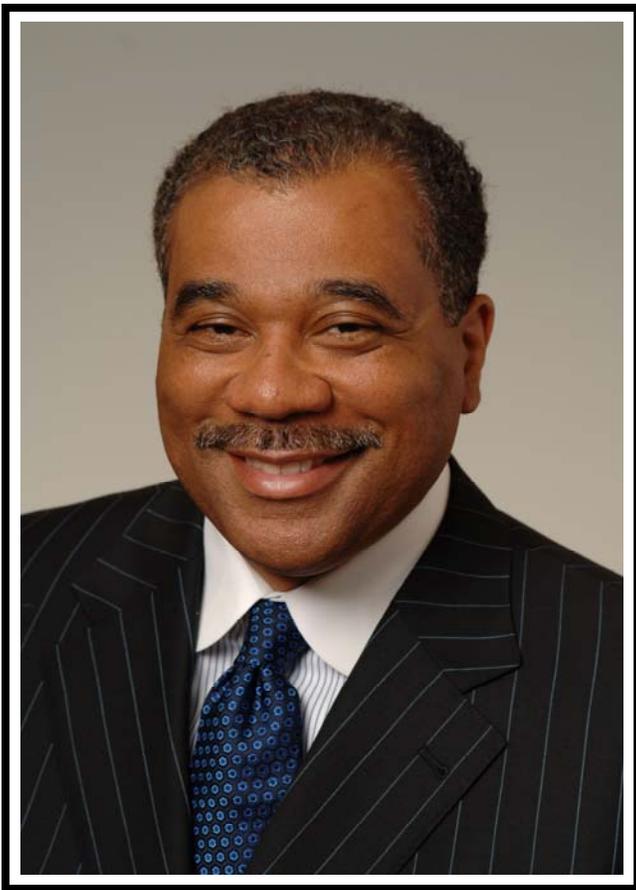
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Marsha J'.

Marsha Jones  
Chief Diversity Officer  
The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.

OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME  
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# Keynote Speaker

Steven A. Davis serves as Chairman of the board and Chief Executive Officer of Bob Evans Farms Inc.

Before joining the company in 2006, Davis worked at Yum! Brands Inc., where he had been president of Long John Silver's and A&W All-American Food Restaurants since 2002. Previously, Davis served in a variety of operations management and other executive positions in Yum! Brands' Pizza Hut division, including Senior Vice President of Concept Development where his team introduced the Wing Street concept. Before joining Pizza Hut in 1993, he was with Kraft General Foods for nine years. His last position with Kraft was as Director of Marketing for All American Gourmet. Earlier in his career, he held a series of brand management positions in Kraft's cheese business where he launched several successful new products and marketing campaigns for household brands such as Philadelphia® Brand Cream Cheese, Cheeze Whiz® and Velveeta® to name a few.

In July 2011, Davis was appointed to the Board of JobsOhio, Ohio's new private, nonprofit corporation that will lead Ohio's job creation and economic development activities. Davis also serves as a board member of the Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital and Richard J. Solove Research Institute Foundation. He is a member of the Columbus Partnership and Compete Columbus, two organizations focused on economic development strategy for the region. He is also a member of the Ohio Business Roundtable and the National Council of Chain Restaurants. He served as 2007 chair for Operation Feed, which provides food for needy families in Central Ohio. Davis is also a board member of the Walgreen Co., the nation's largest drugstore chain, with over 7,600 locations nationwide and was recently elected to The Business Council, the association of Chief Executive Officers of the world's most influential business enterprises. Recently he was elected to serve as the co-chair of The Ohio State University Medical Center Fund Raising Campaign.

Davis is an Alumnus of INROADS, a not-for-profit organization, whose mission it is to develop and place talented minority youth in business and industry to prepare them for corporate and community leadership. He served as Chairman of the board of Summerbridge Louisville educational assistance program from 2003 to 2006 and was a board member of Turner 12, an organization that provides assistance to lower-income children to attend college, in Dallas from 2000 to 2003. *Black Enterprise Magazine* 2005 named Davis as one of the 75 Most Powerful Black Men in American Business and in 2010 Davis graced the cover of *Who's Who In Black Columbus*.

Davis holds a Master of Business Administration in Marketing and Finance from the University of Chicago and a Bachelor of Science in Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin at Milwaukee. In 2007, Rio Grande University awarded him an honorary doctorate degree in Public Service. Davis and his wife, Lynnda, have three children and reside in Columbus, Ohio.



OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME  
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# Bob Evans Farms, Inc.

is proud to celebrate the  
Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame Inductees!



OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME  
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MEET THE 2011  
OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS  
HALL OF FAME  
INDUCTEES

ROGER ABRAMSON

THEODORE M. BERRY

KEN CAMPBELL

NATHANIEL R. JONES

DR. AMOS H. LYNCH

LOUIS. D. SHARP

V. ANTHONY SIMMS-HOWELL



OHIO CIVIL RIGHTS HALL OF FAME  
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# Roger Abramson

*Nominator: Sharon Bowen, President & CEO  
The Bowen Group, LLC*

Roger Abramson, a Jewish man from Cincinnati, inherited a passion for pursuing equality in education from his parents who were actively involved in the Avondale Parent Teachers Association and worked passionately to improve Cincinnati's inner city schools. Mr. Abramson took that passion and has spent his life advocating for equality and justice not only in Cincinnati, but throughout the country.

Mr. Abramson is a graduate of Cincinnati's Hughes High School, an inner city school serving students of various cultural backgrounds. A talented musician, Mr. Abramson was a member of the Hughes High School

Band and went on to join some of his fellow school band members in a band called the "Donald Lindner Trio." Mr. Abramson, the only white band member, and the band performed for all Black audiences at inner city high schools, roller domes, and at the Ritz Ballroom on Central Avenue in Cincinnati. During these performances, he witnessed his fellow band members being forced to use separate entrances, bathrooms, water fountains, and travel accommodations. The band members were also subjected to racial taunting and harassment for being Black and Jewish by other students at school.

His experiences in high school heightened his desire to be an advocate for equality and encouraged him to join the Civil Rights Movement. After high school, Mr. Abramson marched with the late Senator William Bowen in a legendary protest at Coney Island Swimming Pool in Cincinnati in what amounted to a successful effort to desegregate the pool. Mr. Abramson continued to work with other advocates in the city to create organizations and events that would bring about positive change. For example, in 1960, he put forth the investment package for the Ohio Jazz Festival which brought acts like Mahalia Jackson, Pete Seeger, Joan Baez, and Bob Dylan to the city. Mr. Abramson also regularly opened his home to the community in order to hold fund raisers and special events in support of the Civil Rights Movement.

Mr. Abramson also hosted concerts including Dick Gregory and the Freedom Singers, presented the NAACP Freedom Spectacular concert, and served as a consultant to the West End Service Project. He took on leadership roles in the Civil Rights Movement by serving as Chairman of Fellowship House, Vice Chairman of the Greater Cincinnati Conference on Equal Opportunity in Housing, Chairman of Friends of Selma and Chairman of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee in Southern Ohio. He also worked with the Southern Christian Leadership Council, with Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth, the Congress on Racial Equality; and the Catholic Interracial Council.

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# Theodore M. Berry

## (1905–2000)

*Nominator: Gregory Williams, President  
University of Cincinnati*

Theodore M. Berry was dedicated to helping his community overcome the obstacles of inequality and discrimination. He was a graduate of Woodward High School and named valedictorian of his class, an honor never before bestowed on an African-American student. Mr. Berry went on to attend law school at the University of Cincinnati and was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1932.

Mr. Berry was elected as the youngest President of the Cincinnati Chapter of the NAACP where he served two terms between 1932 and 1946. During his presidency, he was urged by Thurgood Marshall to act as the lead defense attorney for the Tuskegee

Airmen in a case that involved three African-American pilots who were court-martialed for their actions during the Freeman Field Mutiny. They were accused of shoving a white Lieutenant and were arrested, along with 100 other African-American officers, for refusing to sign an order that would officially prohibit African-American officers from the officers club. Mr. Berry won acquittal for two of the men, but a conviction was handed down for the third. Nearly fifty years later, in 1995, the third officer was pardoned by the United States Air Force.

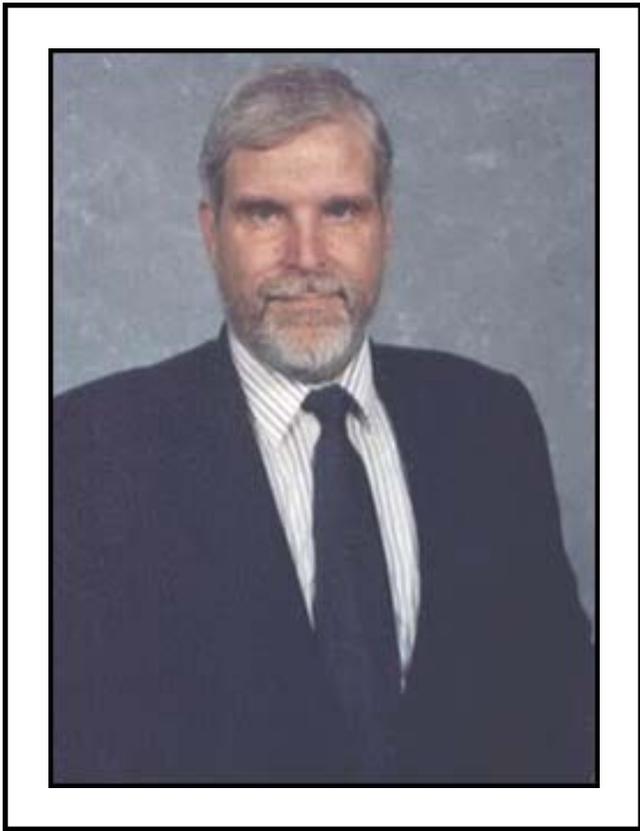
In 1939, Mr. Berry was appointed as the first African-American Assistant Prosecuting Attorney for Hamilton County. Mr. Berry served as Morale Officer for the U.S. Office of War Information under President Franklin D. Roosevelt; however, he resigned from the post in opposition to the unequal treatment of African-American soldiers. He documented these grave concerns in an article written in 1942 titled, “*A Challenge to Citizens Second Class.*” From 1947 until 1961, Mr. Berry served on the NAACP Ohio Committee for Civil Rights Legislation where he dedicated his work to supporting fair housing rights and equal employment opportunities.

Mr. Berry was deeply rooted in the Cincinnati community and was elected to Cincinnati City Council in 1949. He was later appointed as Chairman of the Finance Committee and Vice Mayor of the city in 1955. In 1965, Mr. Berry was appointed by President Lyndon B. Johnson as head of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity’s Community Action Programs which included oversight of programs such as HeadStart, Job Corps, and Legal Services. In 1972, Mr. Berry left Washington D.C. to return to Cincinnati and shortly thereafter was elected as the first African-American Mayor of the City of Cincinnati. The theme of his mayoral administration was, “Togetherness.”



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# Ken Campbell

(1950–2007)

*Nominator: Mary Vaughan, Executive Director  
ADA-Ohio*

Ken Campbell dedicated his life to promoting equality for all citizens in all aspects of life. He was deeply committed to empowering the disabled community and spent much of his life working to strengthen the rights of people with disabilities. He pioneered a national movement to protect the rights of people with disabilities and is recognized as one of the primary creators of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) which was signed into law in 1990 by former U.S. President George H. W. Bush. He also participated on a number of national, state, and local boards and committees in an effort to increase equal rights in

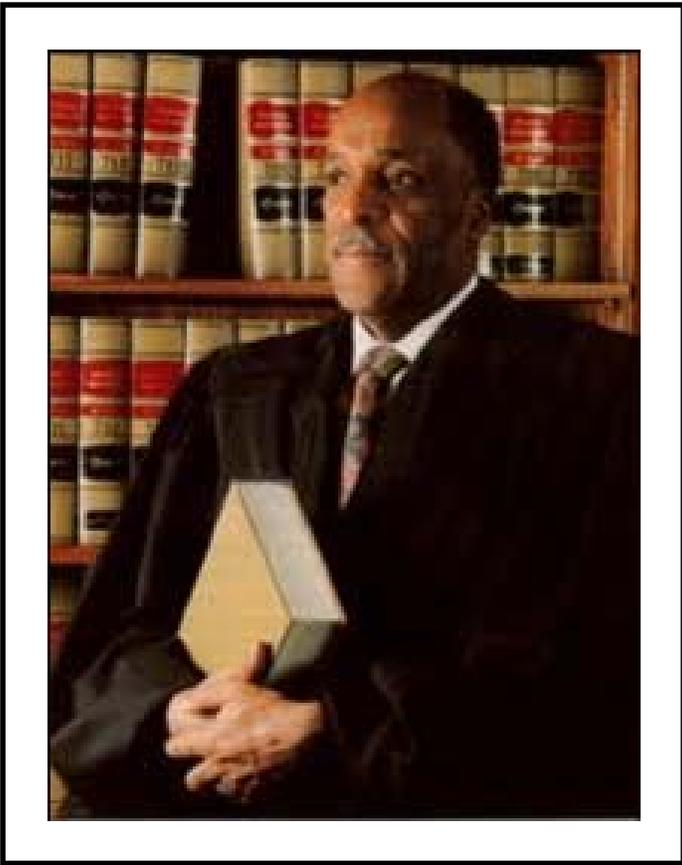
employment for people with disabilities, ensure that all citizens had equal access to professional and social venues, and provide youth with the opportunity to excel athletically regardless of physical or mental limitations.

Some of Mr. Campbell's career highlights include his service to the City of Columbus where he worked as the Disabled Persons Program Coordinator. He also served as a consultant for Disability Consultation Services and as the Executive Director of the Ohio Developmental Disabilities Council where he led the agency's mission to advocate for persons with developmental disabilities and oversee the State of Ohio's plan for developmental disabilities including intervention, education, housing, transportation, employment, and retirement. He also served as the Director of Disability Policy Studies at The Nisonger Center, a university center of excellence in developmental disabilities at The Ohio State University where his duties included obtaining funding for disabilities educational research and service programs, among other things. Finally, Mr. Campbell served as the General Manager of Central Ohio Transit Authority where he oversaw the project Mainstream Para-transit program that operated to provide much needed transportation services for people with disabilities.

Mr. Campbell was a passionate volunteer and dedicated his spare time to working with agencies and organizations that provided service to people with disabilities including the Ohio Department of Development, Weatherization Task Force; Central Ohio Rehabilitation Center, Business Advisory Committee, Rehabilitation Services Commission, and the Consumer Advisory Council. Mr. Campbell was also well known throughout Ohio for his positive influence on young people and was an avid athlete who competed in wheelchair marathons and played softball regularly.

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# Nathaniel R. Jones

*Nominator: Donna Jones Baker, President & CEO  
Urban League of Greater Cincinnati*

Improving civil rights and equality have served as the cornerstones of Nathaniel R. Jones' life and it is through his work that he has served as a catalyst for change in our state and throughout the nation. Judge Jones was born in Youngstown and is a graduate of Youngstown State University where he received his B.A. and LLB after serving in the U.S. Army Air Corp during World War II. He was admitted to the Ohio Bar in 1957.

After graduating from law school and spending time in private practice, Judge Jones went on to serve as the Executive Director for the Fair Employment Practices Commission for the City of Youngstown. In 1962, he

was appointed by Attorney General Robert Kennedy as U.S. Assistant Attorney for the Northern District of Ohio. He is the first African American person to hold this position and served in that capacity until 1967 when he was appointed as Assistant General Counsel for President Lyndon B. Johnson's National Advisory Commission on Civil Disorders. Then, in 1969, Judge Jones was asked by Executive Director Roy Wilkins to serve as General Counsel for the NAACP where he worked for the next decade directing the organization's litigation and coordinating efforts to end school segregation. Judge Jones personally argued several school desegregation cases before the U.S. Supreme Court as well as many cases involving race discrimination and affirmative action. He is recognized for his efforts to frame the legal landscape during that time and to use his legal career to serve as a true advocate and champion for equality. Mr. Jones' legal publications are many and were written to shape scholarly opinion regarding racism in our education system and racial disparities in the justice system.

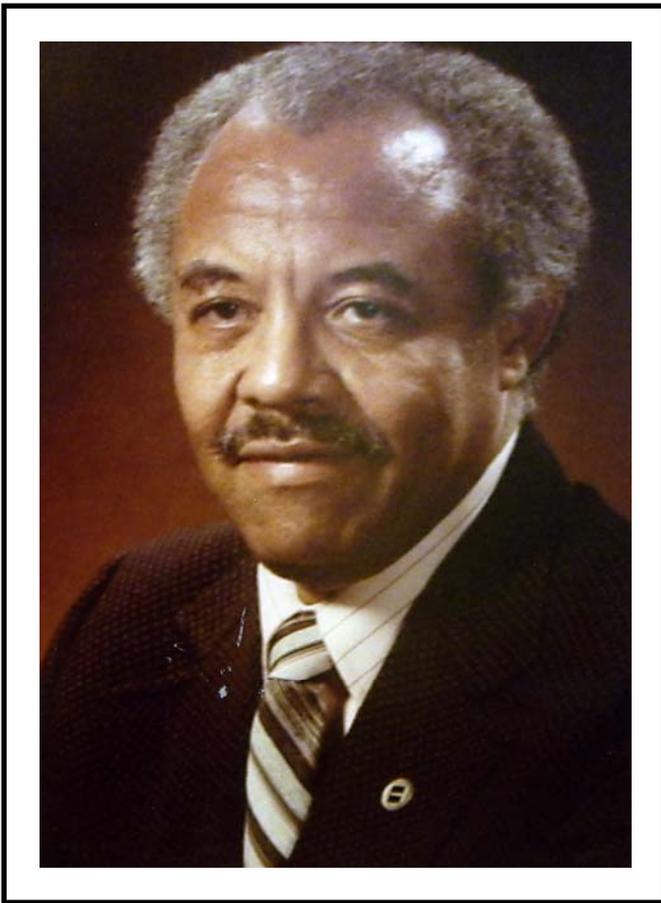
In 1979, Mr. Jones was appointed by President Jimmy Carter to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit. He served on the court for 23 years before retiring in 2002. His commitment to academia and the community is demonstrated through his teaching at Harvard Law School and his work in South Africa where he consulted with drafters of the nation's new constitution and worked with Nelson Mandela to end apartheid.

Mr. Jones continues his legal career today as the Senior Counsel in the Cincinnati office for Blank Rome LLP. Among his many accomplishments, Mr. Jones has been named the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and awards and serves as the namesake of the Federal Building and United States Courthouse in Youngstown, Ohio.



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# Amos H. Lynch, Sr.

*Nominators: Sheryle L. Powell, Executive Director  
The King Arts Complex  
and Mr. John B. Williams*

Amos Lynch, Sr. spent his career as a transformational leader in journalism and is most well-recognized for dedicating his life's work to reporting on issues that affected the African-American community of Central Ohio. For his commitment to ensuring that these important events and stories did not go untold, he earned the nickname "The Godfather," and was well-known for his persistence to report the life stories of African-American scholars, athletes, business owners, and residents that may have otherwise gone unnoticed. Mr. Lynch realized his plight was an important one and he worked tirelessly through journalism to serve as an educator and advocate for the African-American community as well as a source of inspiration to uplift and maintain a proud cultural heritage.

Mr. Lynch's journalism career began in 1946 at a time when opportunities for Black journalists were scarce. At this time, he worked as a newspaper reporter with Ohio News. In 1962, he went on to become the first manager of the Columbus Call & Post where he served as editor-in-chief for nearly 33 years. He also frequently worked in administrative capacities with other major African-American news publications including The Ohio State News, The Ohio Sentinel and The Cleveland Call & Post until he decided to start his own publication, The Columbus Post where he continued to work until his retirement.

Throughout his career Mr. Lynch served as a mentor to many including, but not limited to, the late Gilbert Price, Pamela Thornton, Amos Lynch, Jr., Dr. Barbara Reynolds, Sharon Farmer, and Angela Pace. He provided opportunities for his mentees to enter the field of journalism and instilled in them the need to continue his legacy of reporting on the important events in the African-American community in order to preserve the rich cultural history of the community.

Mr. Lynch is credited as the founder of the Martin Luther King, Jr. Day Observance Breakfast which has become the largest community observation of Martin Luther King, Jr. Day in the U.S. A lasting tribute to Mr. Lynch is the Amos H. Lynch Plaza located in the King-Lincoln District in Columbus, Ohio and serves as the entrance to The Martin Luther King, Jr. Performing and Cultural Arts Complex.

Mr. Lynch has served Central Ohio as a proud community activist by volunteering his time to organizations like I Know I Can, United Negro College Fund, and serving on several boards and commissions in order to promote civil rights and equality. He is the recipient of numerous awards and honors including the 1986 Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Humanitarian Award and being awarded an honorary doctorate degree from The Ohio State University and serving as its 1985 Summer Quarter Commencement speaker.

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# Louis Sharp

*Nominator: Peyton Watts*

Louis Sharp was a pioneer and followed his dreams to become the first African-American to graduate from the Ohio State Highway Patrol Academy. The effort was made most difficult by the ridicule, taunting, and grueling tests he endured at the hands of white trainees and training officers. A critical part of training included a boxing test where trainees were required to demonstrate their boxing skills in a single one-on-one boxing match. Mr. Sharp, however, was required to stay in the ring fight-

ing opponent after opponent until he could no longer move.

Despite the harsh conditions of training and less than favorable treatment from his peers, Mr. Sharp completed the intense sixteen-week training and, on November 4, 1955, he successfully graduated with the 44th Academy Class of the Ohio State Highway Patrol. Two African-American candidates had attempted this feat prior to Mr. Sharp, but were not able to sustain the rigorous training and severe racially hostile treatment from other trainees. Mr. Sharp's commission to this post was the culmination of many, many years of rigorous advocacy efforts by members of the African-American press, the NAACP, and the Urban League. His commission was so significant that Governor Frank J. Lausche ordered that Mr. Sharp be escorted to the Ohio Statehouse for official congratulatory remarks made in a public ceremony by the Governor himself.

Upon graduating from the Patrol Academy, Mr. Sharp was assigned to the rural Findlay District Headquarters where the availability of minority interaction was non-existent both on and off duty. He was ostracized by his co-workers who were not receptive to the idea of working with an African-American person. Mr. Sharp was able to persevere and successfully complete the initial break-in period with the District with the same determination that enabled him to survive his academy training. Unfortunately, his career was short-lived after only nine short months when Mr. Sharp was faced with making the difficult decision of pursuing career paths that would allow him to better support his family.

Mr. Sharp went on to run a successful campaign where he was elected as the Mayor of Urbancrest, Ohio and he continued his work as a public servant for the residents of the community.



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*OCTOBER 13, 2011*



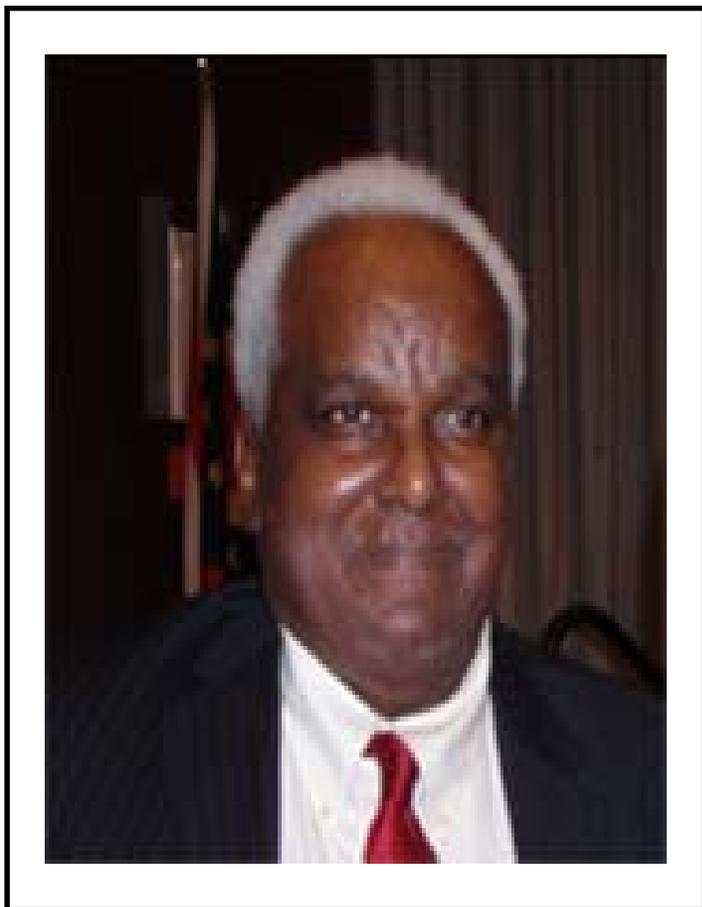
# V. Anthony Simms-Howell

*Nominator: Lilleana Cavanaugh,  
Executive Director  
Ohio Comm. on Hispanic & Latino Affairs*

V. Anthony Simms-Howell is a true champion and advocate for justice and equality and has worked diligently to improve the lives of individuals, families, and the communities where he has lived. Since he migrated with his wife to the United States in 1968 from the Republic of Panama, Mr. Simms-Howell has worked tirelessly as a leader, a mentor, and an advocate to ensure inclusion and representation that promotes fair treatment for all citizens.

Mr. Simms-Howell has been extremely active in his community and has relentlessly promoted childhood education programs and initiatives that serve to provide access and opportunities for disadvantaged children and residents of all backgrounds. He promotes the message of equality through his participation and leadership in various community organizations including service as board member for the Ohio Commission on Hispanic Latino Affairs (OCHLA) and the FBI Citizens Academy as well as a Trustee for the OKI Regional Council of Governance. Mr. Simms-Howell serves on the Board of Directors for the Clippard YMCA and the OKI Regional Council of Governance and is a member of League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC), Cincinnati Public School Early Childhood Education Policy Council, City of Cincinnati Police Community Preventive Education Committee and the FBI and U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Ohio Multi-Cultural Advisory Council. He has also served as a highly sought after public speaker on issues affecting the Latino community and volunteers his time and leadership to various boards and commissions including Head Start/Early Childhood Education Policy Committee, Hamilton County Mental Health Board, United Way Finance Committee, and the Hamilton County Community Action Agency.

Mr. Simms-Howell has been the recipient of numerous awards outlining his dedication to the community. He was the recipient of the 2009 National Association of Social Workers Ohio Chapter-Region VI Public Citizen Award, the 2007 LULAC Community Award, the Lions Club Family Award, the 2004 Hispanic Business Advocate Award and the Distinguished Hispanic Ohioan recognition by OCHLA, among many others.



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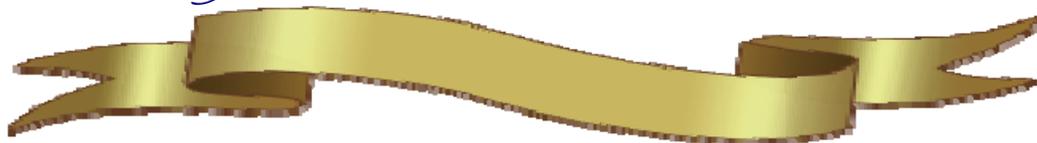


*“Freedom is never granted; it is won. Justice is never given; it is exacted; and the struggle must be continuous for freedom is never a final fact, but a continuing evolving process to higher and higher levels of human, social, economic, political and religious relationship.”*

*—A. Phillip Randolph*



# Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame Inductees



*2009*

WILLIAM F. BOWEN  
ROBERT M. DUNCAN  
BRUCE KLUNDER  
TONI MORRISON  
CARL B. STOKES

JOAN B. CAMPBELL  
RUTH GONZALEZ DE GARCIA  
C.J. MCLIN, JR.  
FRED SHUTTLESWORTH  
GEORGE WASHINGTON WILLIAMS

*2010*

AVERY FRIEDMAN  
DR. KARLA IRVINE  
ERIC PARKS  
RHONDA RIVERA  
DR. MARIAN SPENCER

DR. FRANK W. HALE, JR.  
WILLIAM MCCULLOCH  
SALVADOR RAMOS  
DR. RATANJIT SONDHE  
BALDEMAR VELASQUEZ





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