EIGHTH ANNUAL
HALL OF FAME
OCTOBER 6, 2016

JUDGE JEAN MURRELL CAPERS
JULIANNA COCHRAN ROGERS
REV. LEON TROY
RICHARD WEILAND
MARION MOTLEY
WILLIAM WILLIS
Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame

Inductees

2009
William F. Bowen
Joan B. Campbell
Robert M. Duncan
Ruth Gonzalez De Garcia
Bruce Klunder
C.J. Mcclin, Jr.
Toni Morrison
Fred Shuttlesworth
Carl B. Stokes
George Washington Williams

2010
Avery Friedman
Dr. Frank W. Hale, Jr.
Dr. Karla Irvine
William McCulloch
Eric Parks
Salvador Ramos
Rhonda Rivera
Dr. Ratanjit Sondhe
Dr. Marian Spencer
Baldeamar Velasquez

2011
Roger Abramson
Theodore M. Berry
Ken Campbell
Nathaniel R. Jones
Amos Lynch
Louis D. Sharp
V. Anthony Simms-Howell

2012
James G. Jackson
Rev. Damon Lynch, Jr.
William L. Mallory
Richard Maxwell
Rev. Dr. Otis Moss, Jr.
Jesse Owens
Ohio Tuskegee Airmen

2013
Anison James Colbert
Lawrence Eugene “Larry” Doby
Sara J. Harper
Pastor Robert Lee Harris
Marjorie B. Parham
Charles O. Ross, Jr.
Alexander M. “Sandy” Spater

2014
Jessie O. Gooding
Rev. Mother Louise Shropshire
Joan Evelyn Southgate
Emily T. Spicer
Judge S. Arthur & Louise Spiegel
Gloria Steinem
John B. Williams
Ohio Freedom Riders:
Betty Daniels Rosemond
David Fankhauser, Ph.D
Frances L. Wilson Canty

2015
Nimrod B. Allen
Nirmal K. Sinha
Schuyler Smith & Merri Gaither Smith
Louis Stokes
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 eliminate barriers to equal opportunity in this great state as well as foster cultural awareness and understanding for a more just society.
know

you deserve the recognition.

PNC is proud to congratulate the 2016 Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame Inductees on an amazing achievement. You’ve shown us what’s possible through hard work and persistence.

pnc.com
Welcome to Ohio's Eighth Annual Civil Rights Hall of Fame ceremony. The Ohio Civil Rights Commission, PNC, Honda of America Manufacturing, Inc., and Wright State University are very proud to host this annual event. We are committed to preserving the rich civil rights heritage in our state while also promoting equal opportunity and goodwill.

On behalf of Ohio's citizens, we extend our appreciation and admiration to the nominees who have been selected for induction into the Civil Rights Hall of Fame. Each inductee has an exceptional story of outstanding service to our state. Today's celebration of their service and accomplishments will hopefully inspire future generations to follow in their footsteps.

Thank you for supporting this extraordinary event and Ohio's strong public policy against discrimination.

Sincerely,
Honda Congratulates the 2016 Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame Inductees:

Judge Jean Murrell Capers
Julianna Cochran Rogers
Marion Motley
Reverend Leon Troy
Richard Weiland
William Willis
From the Governor

October 6, 2016

Greetings,

I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to Chairman Leonard Hubert and the Ohio Civil Rights Commission as you host the 8th Annual Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame Induction ceremony. I commend the Ohio Civil Rights Commission for its initiative in creating this wonderful forum to honor Ohioans who have dedicated their lives to advancing civil rights and creating a more just society for everyone.

Today’s induction ceremony will celebrate a select group of individuals whose leadership and determination in the pursuit of civil rights have made a lasting impact in the lives of countless others.

To all honorees and their representatives, congratulations! You are champions in your respective fields and have shown great courage in your service to your community, state and nation.

Best wishes for another successful celebration.

Sincerely,

John R. Kasich
Governor
Congratulations to the 2016 Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame Inductees

Wright State University is a founding sponsor of the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame. Our university is proud to support the Ohio Civil Rights Commission and honor those who seek to create a more just society for everyone.
From the Sponsors

Dear Friends:

On behalf of The PNC Financial Services Group, I would like to congratulate the 2016 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 2016 inductees, it is 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.

Once again, we applaud these efforts and look forward to the continued partnership and dedication to advancing equality in the region.

Sincerely,

Marsha Jones
Chief Diversity Officer
The PNC Financial Services Group, Inc.
The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center congratulates the 2016 Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame Inductees.
October 6, 2016

Dear Friends,

On behalf of Honda and our associates throughout Ohio, congratulations to each 2016 inductee of the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame. Each inductee, and those who supported their efforts, should be proud of their commitment and positive impact upon local communities throughout Ohio.

Honda believes in The Power of Dreams. Earlier this year, Honda realized one of its dreams, the launch of Acura’s pinnacle new supercar, the Acura NSX, made exclusively in Ohio. Such an accomplishment could not have been possible without the collective dreams and efforts of many. Similarly, I imagine that through the initiative and dedicated efforts of today’s inductees, communities throughout the state have benefitted from the power of their dreams and ensuing efforts.

On behalf of all our associates, Honda is proud to support this event and those who make significant contributions in support of civil rights and the progression of cultural awareness in our neighboring communities. The tireless efforts and sacrifices of these and previous inductees have produced positive results. But we cannot rest, there is still work to be done.

I would like to congratulate and thank each 2016 inductee and those who supported you during this journey. Your example will serve as a guiding light for future generations to model as they dream and take actions to continually advance the work of civil rights.

Sincerely,

Tomomi Kosaka
President and CEO
Honda of America Mfg.
From the Sponsors

WRIGHT STATE UNIVERSITY

David R. Hopkins, President

For more than half a century, Ohio's Civil Rights Commission has protected the rights of Ohio citizens. Originally called the Fair Employment Practices Commission, it began as the watchdog for unlawful discrimination. Today's commission works to "eliminate prejudice, its harmful effects and its incompatibility with American principles of equality and fair play."

Wright State University is proud to partner with PNC and Honda Manufacturing of America to co-sponsor the eighth Civil Rights Hall of Fame in the State of Ohio. The Hall of Fame will honor men and women in Ohio who have made significant contributions to the progress of the civil rights movement throughout their careers and in their community leadership. The individuals recognized here today have, through their actions — their advocacy for civil rights, the appreciation of cultural differences and similarities — built a more just society.

Wright State University is well known for its commitment to accessibility, diversity and inclusion. It has been our great honor to participate in the founding of Ohio's Civil Rights Hall of Fame and to honor this year's inductees, who through their exemplary leadership inspire the next generation of leaders.

No person does this alone. So, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the family and friends of each honoree who have play a major role their success. Congratulations Class of 2016.

Sincerely,

David R. Hopkins
October 6, 2016

Dear friends,

Today we gather to uplift and celebrate champions of civil rights from the great state of Ohio. On behalf of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center staff, board, ambassadors and volunteers, I would like to congratulate the 2016 Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame inductees and their families.

The 2016 Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame inductees are heroes – heroes who used their individual voices to affect real change, each in their own unique way. Their courage, cooperation and perseverance has made this state we call home a better place. While there is more work to be done – the heroes we honor today have paved the way for a new generation of change agents here in Ohio.

The National Underground Railroad Freedom Center is proud to partner with the Ohio Civil Rights Commission, at this ceremony today, and by providing a home for the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame archives. Ohio has one of the longest histories of civil rights enforcement in the country, from the Ohio Public Accommodations Law of 1884 to the establishment of the Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame in 2009. As the fight for civil rights and inclusive freedom continues in Ohio, and across our nation, we are truly humbled to provide a space honoring each Ohioan inducted into the Civil Rights Hall of Fame.

Judge Jean Murrell Capers, Julianna Cochran Rogers, Reverend Leon Troy, Richard "Dick" Weiland, Marion Motley and William "Bill" Willis – thank you for standing up, speaking out and making change possible.

Warmest regards,

Dr. Clarence G. Newsome, President
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
Mistress of Ceremonies
Kristyn Hartman

Kristyn Hartman is currently a news anchor at WBNS-10TV. She came from WBBM, in Chicago, where she worked for nearly eight years as a reporter and news anchor. She previously worked at stations in Charlotte, Phoenix, Peoria, Ill., and Joplin, Mo.

Kristyn is a Midwest girl to the core. She was born and raised in the Midwest, and attended Northwestern University, where she graduated from the School of Communication. She majored in Radio/Television/Film.

Over her 19 years in the business, Hartman has produced shows, shot video, edited, reported and anchored. She says her favorite stories are the ones that genuinely turn a light on and tell people something they didn’t know about the immediate world around them.

In Chicago, Kristyn did a piece about a high school that had 117 pregnant or parenting teenage girls. It caused concern nationally, but more importantly, locally. The story alerted community stakeholders to a very real issue. They came together to address it. Kristyn says, to her, that’s what news is all about.

Hartman says she’s thankful the business has given her the opportunity to work with some wonderful groups. She helped build a home with Habitat for Humanity. In 2006, Kristyn ran the Chicago Marathon with Team In Training. She’s dedicated time to cancer research and support and hopes to bring a chapter of the Pediatric Oncology Treasure Chest Foundation to Columbus.

She also hopes to continue reaching out to children through reading. “Everywhere I’ve worked, I’ve made visiting classrooms a priority,” Hartman said. She’s also committed to being a guest speaker whenever she can for collegiate journalism programs. In her spare time, Hartman says she loves being a student of the world. She has traveled to Germany, Italy, Costa Rica, Greece, Hungary, France, Peru and all over the U.S. She studied German and still reads German newspapers when she finds the time. At home, Hartman says baking is one of her favorite hobbies. Her husband, Chris, doesn’t mind that at all.
Cynthia Booth is a native of Cincinnati, Ohio. She earned her Bachelor Degree from Denison University and a Master Degree from Indiana Wesleyan University. She is also a graduate of the Harvard Business School Executive Education Program on Corporate Strategy.

Ms. Booth, formerly a Banker with Firstar Bank (currently US Bank), was one of the highest-ranking females at the executive level during her tenure. In August 2000, Ms. Booth became President/CEO and Owner of COBCO Enterprises/McDonalds, a privately held company that owns six McDonald’s Franchises.

Ms. Booth is the recipient of many community and civic awards, some of which include the YWCA Career Women of Achievement Award, the University of Cincinnati School of Business Distinguished Service Award, the 2005 State of Ohio Minority Retailer of the Year Award, the 2007 Enquirer Woman of the Year Award, the 2010 University of Cincinnati Entrepreneurial Excellence Award, the 2010 Ronald Award (the highest award that a McDonald’s business franchisee can receive), the 2014 CEG Business Excellence Award, the 2015 National Sorority of Phi Delta Kappa’s Extraordinary Entrepreneurship Award, the 2016 Lead Magazine Emerging Business Award, and the 2016 Goering Center Family Business Award.

In February 2008, President George W. Bush honored Ms. Booth at the White House as an outstanding businessperson. She has also been featured in Fortune Magazine and has appeared on “CNN” Money Talks.

Ms. Booth serves on the boards of Denison University in Granville, Ohio, First Financial Bank, Indiana Wesleyan University DeVoe School of Business Board of Advisors, and she is the Treasurer of the Cincinnati USA Regional Chamber of Commerce.
Judge Jean Murrell Capers moved to Cleveland, Ohio from Florida with her family at the age of six, because Capers’s father wanted her and her four siblings to live in an integrated community that the American South in the 1910’s could not offer. Both of Capers’s parents were graduates of State Normal College for Colored Persons (now Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University) and they wanted their children to experience the benefits and challenges that came with an integrated education.

Capers’ father got his wish and after years of school in Ohio, Judge Capers graduated from Western Reserve University (now Case Western Reserve) in 1932 with a degree in education. From there, she went on to teach at an elementary school for five years and then health and physical education at a nearby high school.

Hoping to help her community even more, Judge Capers earned a law degree in 1945 from Cleveland Law School (now Cleveland-Marshall College of Law). When she started her career as an attorney, Judge Capers knew the struggles and disadvantages she would face as an African American woman in private law practice. She persevered in spite of the prejudices she faced and gave every judge a chance to prove his fairness. Capers became the first African American woman elected to Cleveland City Council in 1948. In 1977, she was appointed to the Cleveland Municipal Court where she served until 1986.

Once she became a judge herself, Judge Capers vowed to remain fair and has been quoted saying, “The Bible and the Constitution, that’s what I live by, then I don’t have to equivocate one way or another. This is what I believe in.” In May 2009, Judge Capers was honored with an honorary doctor of laws degree from Cleveland-Marshall College of Law, representative of her long and prestigious career. Ever the stalwart, Capers continues to advocate for the rights of seniors in her community today.
When Julianna Cochran Rogers (1940-2000) contracted polio at the age of 15 and lost the use of both legs, she knew that she would need to use a wheelchair for the remainder of her life. However, she was determined to make sure that her wheelchair did not hold her back from opportunities. In 1966, Julie applied to the Ohio State University and was told that, since one of her required classes was held on the third floor of Derby Hall, she would not be able to attend. Determined to overcome Ohio State’s inaccessibility and unwillingness to accommodate her needs, Julie continued fighting for admission and was eventually able to attend Ohio State in 1968. She enlisted the men of the Delta Chi fraternity to carry her in her wheelchair up the 91 steps to the third floor of Derby Hall for that class.

In her last undergraduate year, as guest speaker for the senior banquet in 1972, Julie challenged her class to raise funds for a barrier-free campus. They raised $300,000 to begin the conversion of campus restrooms for disability accommodation, create curb cut-outs and eliminate other physical barriers that obstructed the nearly 700 students with disabilities on campus at the time. Julie remained at Ohio State to earn a Master’s degree in Speech Therapy, and to work there for 23 years in speech therapy.

As a speech pathologist, Julie noticed a pattern of dyslexic students failing courses and dropping out of school. Her focus and concern for these students lead to a personal crusade to provide research and learning resources for dyslexic students at Ohio State and at Ohio Wesleyan, Franklin University and Columbus Technical College (now Columbus State Community College).

A lifelong advocate for the civil rights of people with disabilities, Julie served with many advocacy organizations, including Central Ohio Easter Seals (as President and board member), the Mayor of Columbus’s Handicapped Advisory Task Force (as Chairperson), the Independent Living Council, and the Governor’s Council on People with Disabilities. Julie also raised awareness and visibility for people with disabilities as a Charter Member of the Board of Trustees for the Miss Wheelchair American Pageant, Inc. and winning the first “Miss Wheelchair Ohio.”
The Rev. Leon Troy was born and raised in Toledo, Ohio. With his passion for people, social work, and parental involvement in education, Troy has dedicated more than 50 years to public service. Initially, Rev. Troy was interested in becoming a constitutional lawyer. However, after enlisting in the Army he realized that his calling was in the ministry. In 1953, Troy earned his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Toledo. Three years later, he attended Oberlin Graduate School of Theology and earned his Bachelor of Divinity degree and, in 1973, he received his Master’s in Divinity degree from Vanderbilt.

Wherever the Rev. Troy served, he would establish an educational program for children. He believed, “If children are going to participate in the world, they have to be cognitive on how to function in the world.” As pastor of the Ebenezer Baptist Church in Sandusky, Ohio, Troy established a Head Start program which was designed to end the cycle of poverty through educating young children in kindergarten through sixth grade. That program generated ten more Head Start programs throughout the city and country and educated countless children over the years. In these Head Start programs, young children were taught academic and social skills that would help them navigate out of poverty. In 1966, as pastor of the Second Baptist Church in Warren, Ohio, Troy established a similar preschool center program serving children aged 3 to 6.

In 1976, Troy became pastor of Second Baptist Church in Columbus, Ohio. He served there for 20 years until he retired. While serving in Columbus, Troy established the Columbus Laboratory School program for children in kindergarten through eighth grade. In addition to serving as a pastor, he also served as the community outreach coordinator during the administration of Columbus Mayor Buck Rinehart. Rev. Troy has been the recipient of several awards such as the Temple Israel Humanitarian of the Year, United Negro College Fund’s Distinguished Service Award and the Corcoran Award. Additionally, Troy was elected as the youngest person as President to the Ohio Baptist General Convention. He was also a delegate to the Baptist World Alliance in Tokyo, Japan and Stockholm, Sweden and co-authored the book, *The Black Christian Experience*. 
Richard “Dick” Weiland was born and raised in Cincinnati, Ohio. He graduated from Walnut Hills High School in Cincinnati in 1947 and attended Williams College, where he had an opportunity to meet First Lady Eleanor Roosevelt at the United Nations. Weiland graduated from the University of Cincinnati School of Law, but never practiced law. Instead he found great success as a business owner and political consultant.

Throughout his life, Weiland has consistently advocated for civil rights. In 1965, he joined the historic march led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama to protest for voting rights for African Americans. Following the Cincinnati riots in 1967, Weiland joined Bailey Turner and Jimmy Vinegar in putting a stop to civil unrest in Cincinnati. In the 1970’s, he helped Cincinnati’s Talbert House expand to cover welfare-to-work, substance abuse and mental health services. He has received awards from the Ohio Department of Rehabilitation and Correction and from U.S. Senator Rob Portman for his work on prisoner reentry programs. Later in life, Weiland supported the Rev. Fred Shuttlesworth Scholarship fund for African American students to attend Cincinnati State Technical and Community College.

Weiland is also well-known for his involvement and advocacy for the Jewish community. Weiland founded the Halom House in 1982, which provides services for Jewish adults with disabilities. In July 2016, he was honored at the 2016 Shuttlesworth Reunion for his involvement in the establishment of a Jewish Community Center. He was also awarded the Jacob Rader Marcus Award for individuals who have supported the mission of the American Jewish Archives to preserve American Jewish history for generations to come.
Marion Motley (1920–1999) was born in Leesburg, Georgia but moved to Canton, Ohio when he was three years old. An athlete throughout his school years, Motley played collegiate football at South Carolina State College and the University of Nevada, Reno. In 1944, Motley left the University of Nevada to join the U.S. Navy where he played football for the Great Lakes Blue Jackets, a military team coached by Ohio State University football head coach, Paul Brown, who was also serving in the Navy.

After World War II, Motley went back to Canton and began working at a steel mill, planning to return to Reno in 1946 to finish his degree. However, at the beginning of August, Paul Brown, who was now a coach for the Cleveland Browns, invited Motley and Bill Willis to try out for the Cleveland Browns, where he was eventually asked to join the team.

Trailblazing Teammates:

Willis and Motley’s position on the Cleveland Browns made them two of the first four African Americans to play modern professional football and the only two players in the All-America Football Conference (AAFC). (The Los Angeles Rams of the National Football League had signed two other African American players the same year). Motley and Willis broke football’s color barrier a full year before Jackie Robinson broke baseball’s color barrier in 1947.

Willis and Motley faced racial tensions and outright racism on and off the field. During huddles and tackles, both men were taunted, stepped on and insulted, even by white teammates. Off the field, segregation caused problems for both players.

In their first season in 1946, Willis and Motley did not travel to a game against the Miami Seahawks due to threatening letters. Officials for the Seahawks said that if the men tried to play they would invoke a Florida law that prohibited black players from competing against whites. Also in Miami, the team’s hotel refused to host Motley and Willis and only after Coach Brown threatened to relocate the entire team did the hotel’s management relent. At an all-star game in Houston, Texas, the players were forced
William “Bill” Willis

William (Bill) Willis (1921–2007) was born in Georgia, but his family moved to Columbus, Ohio in 1922, when he was only a year old. Shortly after moving to Ohio, Willis’s father died, and he was raised by his grandfather and mother amid the financial hardships of the Great Depression. An athlete from a young age, Willis played football in high school and enrolled in Ohio State University in 1941 under Ohio State head coach Paul Brown.

Shortly after enrolling at Ohio State, many of the college’s football players left to enlist in the military and serve in World War II. Willis also volunteered for the U.S. Army, but was not able to enlist due to varicose veins.

When Willis graduated from Ohio State in 1945, more than a decade had passed since the last African American had played professional football. A “gentlemen’s agreement” to not hire African American players in professional football had been in effect for years and Willis did not have hopes of playing professionally. Instead, Willis took a job as the head football coach at Kentucky State College, an historically black college, in the fall of 1945. After hearing that his former coach Paul Brown would be coaching the Cleveland Browns, Willis tried out for the team and earned a spot.

to stay in a separate hotel from white players.

In spite of this racial hostility, Motley persisted and became one of the best players in football history. His 1950 average-yards-per-rush record stood for more than 52 years and he was the second African American player to be inducted into the Professional Football Hall of Fame.

After his playing career ended in the late 1950’s, Motley looked for coaching jobs, but after several instances where he was told there were no vacancies, only to see a white man hired soon after. Motley began to believe that he was not being hired because of his race. Instead, Motley pursued work in public service, working first for the U.S. Postal Service, and later for the state of Ohio Lottery and the Ohio Department of Youth Services.

Willis was inducted into the College Football Hall of Fame in 1971, and in 1977 he was inducted to the Pro Football Hall of Fame. Following his football career, Willis stayed in Ohio, working with youth as Cleveland’s Assistant Recreation Commissioner and in the 1970s, as Chairman of the Ohio Youth Commission, a state agency created to combat criminal behavior among young people.

Ohio Civil Rights Hall of Fame
October 6, 2016
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 these partnerships.

A special thank you to:

Shannon Morgan and Mike Gonsiorowski, PNC Bank
Ohio State Highway Patrol Color Guard
Lovie Mayo’s 6th Grade Class, Stewart Elementary School
Steven Spottswood, Catherine Willis, and Urban Strings Columbus
Wendy Pellinger and Caroline Ramsey, Honda of America Mfg., Inc.
Dr. Michael Bernstein, Wright State University
National Underground Railroad Freedom Center
United Way of Central Ohio
The Ohio Civil Rights Commission

Commissioners: Leonard Hubert, Chair  Lori Barreras  William Patmon, III  Madhu Singh  Juan P. Cespedes

The Ohio Civil Rights Commission (OCRC) was established July 29, 1959 by the Ohio Legislature. The powers, duties, jurisdiction, practices and procedures of the Commission are specified in the Ohio Revised Code, Chapter 4112. The primary function of The Ohio Civil Rights Commission is to enforce state laws against discrimination.

OCRC receives and investigates charges of discrimination in employment, places of public accommodation, housing, credit, and disability in higher education on the bases of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, disability, age, ancestry, military status or familial status.

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