

IOWA NATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION

INBA

Fall/Winter Issue 2019

The Journey



President's Letter



The State of Iowa, and indeed the nation, lost an important defender of the rule of law, and a supporter of due process and equal protection for all. On November 15, 2019, **Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Cady** passed away unexpectedly.

Chief Justice Cady was an amazing example of class and dignity. In August, Chief Justice Cady delivered the inaugural address at the Iowa National Bar Association's Meeting at the Monument, an annual diversity celebration. In this issue, we reprint his memorable speech in its entirety.

On the cover, Chief Justice Cady poses with **Victoria Millet**, his then law clerk, at the INBA's inaugural Meeting at the Monument in August 2019. Millet introduced Chief Justice Cady at the ceremony.

Also In This Issue

Alfredo Parrish received the INBA's inaugural Journey Award. The Journey Award recognizes individuals/groups who have demonstrated a commitment to equity and diversity and have enriched the lives of others. Inside we reprint Parrish's nomination speech in its entirety.

We again thank our donors for mak-

ing this inaugural event possible.

Thank you to the following sponsors: Diversity Partner – **Davis Brown Law Firm**; Platinum Sponsors – **ISBA Young Lawyers Division** and **Dorsey Whitney Law Firm**; Gold Sponsors – **Brown Winick Law Firm** and **Bradshaw, Fowler, Proctor and Fairgrave Law Firm**. Without their support, the event would not have been possible.

This issue, we highlight **Vicky Long Hill**. Long Hill has served as former President to the Iowa National Bar Association. This year she received the Gertrude Rush Award. The award is given jointly by the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys and the Iowa National Bar Association.

Judge Odell McGhee announced his retirement from the bench. Judge McGhee has assumed senior status. On June 21, 2019, the community gathered together to honor Judge McGhee. Inside are pictures from the memorable occasion. Special thanks to **Magistrate Judge Don Williams** for organizing this wonderful event.

Way to Go!!!

Congratulations to **Danielle Foster-Smith**, former **State Representative Helen Miller**, **Victoria Millet**, and **Kevin Patrick**. Foster-Smith was promoted to Vice President and General Counsel at Ruan. Foster-Smith had previously been Corporate Counsel at Ruan.

Former State Representative Helen Miller was appointed to the Iowa Parole Board by Governor Kim Reynolds. Rep. Miller served eight terms in the Iowa legislature representing

Fort Dodge and rural Webster County.

Victoria Millet was hired as an associate attorney at Davis Brown Law Firm, Des Moines, Iowa. Millet previously served as clerk to Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Cady.

Kevin Patrick was hired as an associate attorney with the Nyemaster Goode Law Firm, Des Moines, Iowa. Patrick previously served six years as assistant County Attorney with the Polk County Attorney's Office.

Out and About

Prof. Erin Lain, **Judge McGhee**, **Alfredo Parrish**, and **Daniel Zeno** presented at the Polk County Bar Association 2019 Fall CLE.

In November, **Felicia Bertin Rocha** presented "What's New with the Indian Child Welfare Act?" for the Iowa State Bar Association

Holiday Party!!!!

The **INBA Holiday Party** is set for **December 20**, beginning at 6:30 p.m. at the home of Henry Hamilton, 5845 Beechtree Dr., West Des Moines, IA. Please RSVP to hhamil3@aol.com. Come help us celebrate another great year!

Membership Dues

Please help the INBA reach its membership goal. Only you can make this happen. The membership form is attached at the end of the newsletter.

If you have any news items for inclusion in the INBA newsletter, please forward them to hhamil3@aol.com.

Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Cady Delivers Inaugural Address at INBA Meeting at the Monument Diversity Celebration



Here is Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Cady (1953-2019) in his own words.

Of all the values expressed in our constitution, none is more important or more endearing than equality. It embodies the foundation of our hope and aspirations as a people. It is our self-evidence truth, as Thomas Jefferson penned 2 ½ centuries ago.

Yet, while equality is in our DNA, we have struggled mightily over our history to treat people equally. This issue is complex, as are the answers, but maybe the story of Rosa Parks offers some guidance.

In 1955, Rosa Parks launched the civil rights movement with the Montgomery bus boycott. It was a remarkable period in our history. While five people in the preceding year were also arrested for failing to give up their seats on the bus, they were unable to ignite a movement. But Rosa Parks did. She was not only a passenger on the bus that day – December 1,

Truth is the very aim of law, and needs diversity to be properly judged – Chief Justice Mark Cady

1955 – she also ended up being the driver – the driver of a movement. She succeeded for three reasons. She focused on the core value at stake – equality. She consulted with a team of diverse advocates to help make the right decisions and formulate the right strategy that would be strong enough to generate a movement. And she decisively acted, with passion and commitment. She was a passenger who became a driver.

The story has so much meaning, but for today, it can help give understanding to the value of diversity. If Rosa Parks had not carefully consulted and considered, with others, the many risks she was taking, she would have ended up like the other five before her. Justice would not have been advanced, at least then.

Each one of us suffers from prejudice, bias, false thinking, and at times, simply may have no experience to even draw from. It is diversity of thought that allows us to overcome these deficiencies. When we surround ourselves and engage with people from diverse backgrounds and thoughts, we become much better decision-



This is the reason all employees of the judicial branch in Iowa have been provided implicit bias training over the last three years. This training is now into a second, more advanced stage, geared to elevate the level of decision-making in Iowa's court system as high as possible to make us the best decision-makers possible. It is essential for all of us to go beyond the thinking that only aligns us with one side or the other of an issue. Instead, from there, we must engage in discourse that moves us to a position aligned with our core values, especially when it comes to equality. This is also the reason I've been meeting

with the leadership of Iowa's NAACP over the last four years to identify issues of injustice and to move toward solutions that improve the process of justice. It is why I rely on my law clerks more and more to provide me with additional perspectives. And this experience has never been truer than with my current clerk, Torii Millet, who is a member of this organization. Truth is the very aim of law, and needs diversity to be properly judged. Diversity is not a color, but a means to ad-

vance the content of the character of our nation.

And it's here where our legal profession comes into play. Our legal profession, including Iowa's National Bar Association, helps to build the character of our nation and our state, and must use its diversity to ensure the best decisions are being made in our justice system. Judges need more than courage to make the right decision. They need to be properly informed by the legal profession, just as the judges were in *Clark v.*

Muscatine School Board and *Coger v. Northwest Transport*, and the many other Iowa cases that have advanced the meaning of equality over time. Diversity was needed then, just as it now.

So, as we continue our monumental journey of justice, we must all see the opportunities provided by diversity. It will allow us to help be the drivers in becoming that more perfect union. Thank you for all you do and for the invitation to join you on this day as we continue our journey.



Pictured following the INBA Meeting at the Monument are (L-R): Judge Odell McGhee, Victoria Millet, Colin Pennycooke, Judge Henry Hamilton, Judge Romonda Belcher, Iowa Supreme Court Justice Edward Mansfield, Alfredo Parrish, Betty Andrews (President, Iowa-Nebraska NAACP), Herbert Rogers, Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Cady, Vicky Long Hill, Paxton Williams, Ronald Langford, Brooke Axiotis, David Brown, and Alan Olson.

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Alfredo Parrish Inaugural Recipient of the INBA Journey Award

Here is Parrish's nomination speech as presented at the 2019 INBA Meeting at the Monument.

The INBA Journey Award celebrates the unique contributions of an individual (or group) who has demonstrated a commitment to equity and diversity and has enriched the lives of others.



Alfredo Parrish, the inaugural recipient of the INBA Journey Award, was born in Selma, Alabama. He received his law degree from the University of Iowa College of Law in 1970, where he served as President of the Student Bar. Parrish received his Bachelor's degree from the University of Dubuque, and an Associate's Degree from Warren Wilson College in North Carolina.

He is founder and senior partner of Parrish Kruidenier. The firm has seen continuous growth and with an impressive number of 17 attorneys is now one of the larger firms in Iowa. Parrish practices primarily in criminal defense, personal injury, civil rights, immigration, employment and appellate law. Through the Parrish Kruidenier Scholarship he assists underprivileged students in pursuing

their law degrees from the University of Iowa College of Law.

He is a frequent lecturer, and author, having written the "History of African American Lawyers in Iowa;" Know Your Rights, A Guide Through Iowa's Criminal Justice System; A Legal Guide for Family Farmers; a book of poetry and two jazz albums featuring the Irene Myles Trio.

Parrish has served on the Board of Directors for the University of Iowa Law School Foundation; Community Foundation of Greater Des Moines; University of Dubuque; Des Moines Art Center; Des Moines University; and Des Moines Public Library Foundation.



He has been a member of the Iowa Civil Rights Commission, Polk County Ethics Committee, and the Federal Magistrate Selection Panel.

When he is not in court, Parrish enjoys biking, running, golfing, history and music. He is married to Attorney Margaret Stuart, and has four children and seven grandchildren.



In addition to tonight's award, Parrish has been selected for "Best Lawyers in America" 16 years running; Des Moines Criminal Defense White Collar Lawyer of the Year; National Trial Lawyers' top 100 lawyers; named one of "Fifty Most Influential Iowans" by the Des Moines Register; the Luther T. Glanton Community Service Award; KUCB and M.A.R.C.H. Leadership Award; Man of the Year award by the Des Moines Communicator; Outstanding Citizenship Award by Urban Mission; Des Moines Toughest Lawyer by City View Magazine.

Lastly, he is a recipient of the John Adams Award. The John Adams award is given to an individual who has spent his/her career devoted to the Constitutional Guarantee that every person is entitled to a competent defense, and who fulfills the obligation imposed by the lawyer's oath - "I will never reject, from any consideration personal to myself, the cause of the defenseless or the oppressed."

Parrish receives tonight's award in recognition of his lifetime commitment to equality and freedom.

His pursuits began long before he made a name for himself as one of the premier attorneys in Iowa. It's been a magnificent journey. In between, college and law school, Parrish worked for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC) driving the country backroads of Alabama, visiting homes, and gathering data on health needs of poor African Americans to assist SCLC in establishing health clinics in some of the poorest counties in the United States.

While in law school, his clerking project involved working with the legendary attorney Fred Gray. Gray represented the plaintiffs in the class-action lawsuit regarding the Tuskegee Syphilis Study from 1932-1972, wherein African Americans infected with Syphilis were left untreated. The case settled and led to laws protecting human research subjects.

Parrish has represented clients in 66 of Iowa's 99 counties. He has represented clients in over 250 civil and criminal jury trials, including the first federal "three-strikes" case, Iowa's first death-penalty case in 40 years, and more than 35 first-degree murder trials.

Parrish has argued more than 250 appeals in state and federal courts. He has twice appeared before the United States Supreme Court, including the landmark U.S. Supreme Court case, *Pepper v. United States*, 131 S.Ct. 1229 (2011), wherein the Supreme Court held that a district court may rely on a defendant's post-conviction behavior, including efforts at rehabil-

itation, to support a downward departure from sentencing guidelines.



Parrish has been a staunch advocate for equitable reform in the justice system in Iowa and across the nation.

In a recent Drake Law Review article commemorating the 150th year anniversary of *Clark v Board of School Directors*, Parrish discusses racial disparities in sentencing and writes "Today, in what I envision as Iowa's fifth historical period, Iowa's standing as a leader in civil rights is threatened through its complacency in the face of unequivocal and rapidly mounting evidence of racial bias in the sentencing of its minority citizens. . .The racial disparities in sentencing. . .are in fact unjustified losses of liberty and should alarm our sense of justice as other such losses have throughout Iowa's history. "

For these and many more reasons, Attorney Alfredo Parrish is the INBA's inaugural recipient of the Journey Award.

One INBA member sums it up this way, "Parrish has obtained free-

dom for the overcharged, the unduly incarcerated and the wrongfully convicted; he helped family farmers navigate the Farm Crisis of the 1980's; he helps immigrants realize the promise of America; he returns the dignity of work to the wrongfully terminated; and has obtained millions of dollars of compensation for victims of civil rights abuses and personal injury.

He unabashedly protects the voiceless, defends the powerful, represents the unpopular, and counsels the celebrated. He represents all – without hesitation due to wealth, race, sex, religion, or social status – because the law applies to all, equally. Parrish through his actions demonstrates that equal justice is not negotiable.

The same constitution that protects the powerful, protects the voiceless. The same constitution that protects millionaires, protects the penniless. He is fueled by his belief that no one is less deserving or more deserving than the full and equal protection of the laws. Because of Parrish's decades of aggressive litigation; fervent and public advocacy for justice; pro bono activities; and service to community and profession, he is most deserving of the INBA Journey award."

Ladies and gentlemen we present to you Attorney Alfredo Parrish. Attorney Parrish please accept this award on behalf of the Iowa National Bar Association for your lifelong commitment to justice, equity and diversity.

MEMBER SPOTLIGHT

Vicky Long Hill

Vicky Long Hill 2019 Gertrude Rush Award Recipient. The Gertrude Rush award is a joint award from the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys (I.O.W.A.) and the Iowa National Bar Association. The award recognizes a lawyer who, similarly to Rush, exhibits a pioneering spirit, manifests concern for human and civil rights, and demonstrates leadership in the community and legal profession. Long Hill received the award at the 2019 I.O.W.A. annual meeting held in the Union Block Building, Mt. Pleasant, Iowa. Long Hill received the award in the very building where 150 years earlier Arabella Mansfield was sworn in as the first female attorney in Iowa.

Here is Long Hill's nomination speech as presented at the 2019 I.O.W.A. annual meeting.

We can't add much to what we have already heard tonight regarding Gertrude Rush, but this fact is interesting. Long Hill actually recalls meeting Ms. Rush many years ago when Long Hill was a ten-year-old child. She vividly recalls the encounter, even down to the tilted hat worn by Ms. Rush.

Long Hill's journey began with the desire to help others, and to seek out meaningful work in support of others. It is a journey she continues on today

Long Hill was born and raised in West Des Moines, Iowa, reared by proud parents who instilled in her, and her nine brothers and sisters, the values of education, hardwork and reaching back to serve others. Vicky naturally passed these traits on to her four children – two boys and two girls.

Upon completing Valley High School in West Des Moines, Iowa, Long Hill attended Des Moines Area Community College, and obtained an Associate's degree from the Legal Assistant program. She then served as a Legal Assistant with the Iowa Attorney General's Office, Civil Rights Division.

She later attended Drake University. In 1984 she received a bachelor's Degree in Speech Communication. She was employed by the Iowa Civil Rights Division as an intake Specialist and Civil Rights Investigator. Long-Hill's attention to detail and ability to ask tough questions led to successful prosecution

of civil rights violations and strong remedies for victims of discrimination.



Long Hill speaks after accepting the 2019 Gertrude Rush Award

In 1988, she received the law degree from the University of Iowa and began her legal career as an Estate and Gift Tax Attorney with the US Department of Treasury, Internal Revenue Office. She was the first African American female in the State of Iowa to hold that position.

In 1991, Long Hill became the first African American female to serve as an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Des Moines, Iowa. While employed with the City of Des Moines, she was elected the first African

American female president of the Iowa Municipal Attorney's Association.

In 2005, with an eye on preparing herself to better serve her community, she obtained a Certificate in Non-profit Management from Iowa State University. Long Hill retired from the City of Des Moines in 2015.

Even in retirement, though, she continues to serve the needs of her community. She currently serves as Executive Director of the Eddie Davis Community Center in West Des Moines, Iowa. As Executive Director Long Hill has overall responsibility for ensuring the organization fulfills its mission of "Bridging the Gap" for needy families by offering food, clothing, education and health services.

Long Hill has also served as Director, Valley Junction Legal Clinic; and board member, of Tiny Tots Outreach Center. She is a former board member of the Iowa Legal Aid Society, and of the Polk County Criminal Justice Task Force

Long Hill is past president of the Iowa National Bar Association, and Past Regional Director of the National Bar Association. Long Hill was an instrumental part of a group, including Judge Romonda Belcher and Judge Odell McGhee, who spearheaded the INBA efforts for The Monumental Journey sculpture at 2nd and Grand Ave. in Des Moines, IA, honoring the founders of the National bar Association.

In addition to tonight's award she has received the African American Leaders Coalitions' Community Service Award; the Des Moines NAACP Medgar Evers award for "Outstanding Community Service

by an Individual; and the aptly entitled "Paving the Way" community service award.

In preparing my remarks tonight, I talk to several people who have worked with Long Hill. To a person, they each commented how Long Hill always sees the possible where others see the impossible. She not only is the first to volunteer, but also completes each task she volunteers for.



Long Hill and Artist Kerry James Marshall relax during a luncheon last year celebrating The Monumental Journey.

Tonight, we celebrate Gertrude Rush, Vicky Long Hill, and past awardees, for their advancement, for their hard-work, for their recognition of the struggles of others, and their decisions to follow a path to enhance and change lives of others.

Their paths have not been easy. Gertrude Rush. . .an African American women practicing in the turbulent times of the 1920-1950's.

Long Hill who as a young graduate began employment with the Iowa Department of Treasury, IRS Division and found herself investigating effigies in Dubuque, Iowa. She recalls being met by Federal Agents who told her they had received trusted information that she was not safe in the area.

Or later, while performing her duties in Western Iowa was informed by the local sheriff that she had to go to Council Bluffs because they were rumors in town and he did not feel he could adequately protect her in the motel she was staying in the outskirts of Council Bluffs.

We celebrate courageous women tonight.

I'm reminded of the famous quote - "It is better to light a candle than curse the darkness."

These individuals dared to be the first, and because they were first, there could be a fifth, and subse-

quently a tenth, and so on until we ultimately lose count and quit counting.

Losing count is a glorious thing, which should be celebrated by the masses, because it is a sign that we are that much closer to the beloved community that Dr. Martin Luther King spoke about so eloquently in the 1950's and 60's,

That community where we all sit around the same table, communicate together, reasonably agree and disagree together, play together, pray together, work together, and let me say this, work together with equal pay for equal work, and support each other together.

That community where we are judged by the content of our character, by our work ethic, by our motivations and by our values, and not by the bodies – short, tall, black, white, male, female - which house these qualities.

We celebrate Gertrude Rush and Vicky Long Hill today because these pioneering spirits paved the way for us to someday lose count.

While we celebrate these accomplishments, we must not lose sight that there are far too many areas in our country, our community and even our legal profession where we have not lost count, but indeed we have yet begun counting.

We have work to do. Even in 2019 there are many firsts to be accomplished, and many more imbalances to be corrected. Working in partnership we can achieve our dreams, and we will all be better off.

In closing, I want to thank the Iowa Organization of Women Attorneys for recognizing Vicky Long Hill. I want to thank Vicky Long Hill for her pioneering spirit, decades-long friendship, her work with the NBA and within the Des Moines community, and her lifelong efforts to enrich the lives of others.

Tonight Vicky, we thank you for all that you have done, we honor you, we salute you. Congratulations.



Iowa National Bar Association featured in the Des Moines Urban Experience.



The Urban Experience is a monthly publication that connects and empowers the African American Community in Iowa through sharing positive news.

Vicky Long Hill, Judge Odell McGhee, and Dwana Bradley, publisher of The Urban Experience, discuss the history of the NBA, the organization's trials and tribulations, and The Monumental Journey statue, at the Eddie Davis Community Center, West Des Moines, Iowa.

Women Lead Change – Women of Achievement Award

Willie Stevenson Glanton memorialized on the Women of Achievement Bridge. Women Lead Change, a statewide organization promoting women leadership, recognized Glanton for her outstanding and long-lasting contributions to the citizens of Iowa. Glanton's name will forever emboss the Women of Achievement Bridge in downtown Des Moines.

Glanton championed equal rights and social justice. She was the first African American women to serve in the Iowa Legislature, first African American Women to serve as assistant county attorney in Polk County, and first African American women to serve as City Clerk.



Valencia McCown farewell luncheon

Valencia McCown a longtime treasurer of the INBA has relocated to Virginia. The INBA recently recognized her many years of service and her unwavering support of the association.



JUDGE ODELL MCGHEE RETIREMENT CELEBRATION

In June, the community gathered to celebrate Judge Odell McGhee's retirement. The celebration was held at the historic Witmer House in Des Moines. Approximately 125 people attended the celebration.

Judge McGhee was appointed District Associate Judge in February 2002. Judge McGhee obtained his law degree from Drake Law School. Judge McGhee's portrait adorns the Drake Law School Wall of Fame. Judge McGhee received his undergraduate degree from Cornell University, Mount Vernon, Iowa. He has also studied at the University of Copenhagen and the University of Aarhus in Denmark.

In September 2019, Judge McGhee was inducted into the Iowa African American Hall of Fame. The Iowa African American

Hall of Fame recognizes individuals who have made significant contributions to the improvement of life for Iowans.

Judge McGhee was the first African American to be elected president of the Iowa Judges Association. Judge McGhee has served on the national board of directors of the National Bar Association and as president of the Iowa National Bar Association for 10 years.

Judge McGhee's vision and persistence gave rise to The Monumental Journey, the \$ 2.1 million statue honoring the founders of the National Bar Association.

Judge McGhee has assumed senior status on the Polk County District Associate Court.



A MEETING AT THE MONUMENT

On August 2, 2019, the Iowa National Bar Association hosted its inaugural *Meeting at the Monument: A Celebration of Diversity within the Iowa Legal Community*. The event took place at *The Monumental Journey* statue located along the Principal Riverwalk at the corner of Grand & 2nd Avenues, Hansen Triangle Park, Des Moines, IA. Iowa Supreme Court Chief Justice Mark Cady delivered the inaugural address. The INBA presented the inaugural Journey Award to Des Moines Attorney Alfredo for his commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion in Iowa's legal community. Approximately 75 individuals attended the inaugural celebration.

The Monumental Journey statue was created by artist Kerry James Marshall to honor the founders of the National Bar Association (NBA). The NBA was founded in 1925 in Des Moines by twelve brave African-Americans who were excluded from the American Bar Association due to their race. NBA members went on to fight against segregation, discrimination in employment and housing, and other injustices. Today, the NBA remains the largest national network of predominantly African-American attorneys, deans, professors, and judges.



Judge Belcher, Gina Messamer, and Abhay Nadipuram (President, ISBA Young Lawyers Division and an attorney at Davis Brown law firm) stand with Journey Award recipient Alfredo Parrish. Davis Brown served as Diversity Partner of the inaugural celebration. The ISBA YLD served as a platinum sponsor.



Victoria Millet and Jordan Nickerson (an attorney at Brown Winick law firm) stand with Alfredo Parrish after Parrish's receipt of the Journey Award. Nickerson introduced Parrish. Brown Winick served as a gold sponsor of the celebration.



(L-R) Jordan Nickerson, Alan Olson, Iowa Court of Appeals Judge Mary Tabor, Alfredo Parrish, David Brown, Betty Andrews, and ISBA President Bill Boyd gather at the diversity celebration.

MORE PHOTOS – A MEETING AT THE MONUMNET



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Thank you for your membership!

The 2019-2020 INBA Annual Dues are \$ 50.00. Payment is appreciated by December 31, 2019. Checks should be made out to the INBA and mailed to:

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