The Honorable Justice James H. Coleman, Jr. is Nominated to the New Jersey Hall of Fame

May 5, 2015

During a lifelong quest for justice, The Honorable James H. Coleman, Jr.'s contributions to the cause of racial and social justice are immeasurable.



Born in 1933 in segregated Lawrenceville, Virginia, Justice Coleman overcame great odds to earn his Bachelor of Arts degree from Virginia State College and his Juris Doctor from Howard University School of Law. In 1978 he was appointed to the New Jersey Superior Court, Law Division and in 1981, the Appellate Division. In 1994 he was sworn in as the first African-American New Jersey Supreme Court Justice.

Justice Coleman authored numerous opinions that helped to break down the barriers of segregation. In State of New Jersey v. Gilmore, he authored the Appellate Division opinion which struck down the indiscriminate exclusion of racial minorities from serving on juries. He also authored the Supreme Court decision which concluded that a special jury charge regarding the unreliability of cross-racial identification was required in cases that involved cross-racial eyewitness identification.

Please vote our colleague and friend, The Honorable James H. Coleman, Jr., into the New Jersey Hall of Fame 2015.



Voting ends June 7, 2015.

