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Thurgood Marshall: Little Man's Lion

Carl Holmes

Attorney

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Thurgood Marshall: Little Man's Lion

Carl Holmes

Attorney

After receiving his law degree from Brooklyn Law School in 1953, Carl Holmes worked as a volunteer legal researcher for the N.A.A.C.P. legal staff as they (Thurgood Marshall, Constance Motley, Robert Carter, Jack Greenberg, et al.) prepared final arguments for the landmark school segregation case-Brown v. Board of Education-which resulted in the historic Supreme Court decision of 1954 declaring school segregation laws unconstitutional.

From 1964-1977, Holmes was a member of the executive committee and former co-chairman of the New York Council of the United Negro College Fund. Appointed by the Board of Education in 1967 to the Local School Board for District 28 in Queens, he was elected in 1968 as Vice Chairman of the Local School Board for the 1968-1969 school year. Beginning in 1953, Holmes maintained a private law practice in association with other lawyers. Initially located in Manhattan, he later opened offices in the Borough of Queens.

Beginning in 1954, Holmes was employed full time as a civil service attorney with rent regulatory programs in the City and State of New York. His duties consisted primarily of defending rent control determinations in the New York State Supreme Court and the appellate courts.

In his private practice, Holmes handled a number of matters for a friend, the actor Carroll O'Connor, including the negotiation in Los Angeles of his first contract with Norman Lear and Tandem Productions for the role of Archie Bunker in the Television Series, *All in the Family*. In 1974, he represented Mr. O'Connor in an action under Section 51 of the Civil Rights Law against Magnum-Royal Publications, Inc., the publisher of a lewd magazine, and recovered a judgment of \$500,000 although the defendant escaped retribution through bankruptcy.

Holmes was admitted to the New York Bar in the First Department in 1953; to the U.S. District Court Bar in 1967; and the U.S. Supreme Court Bar in 1979. He is presently - Counsel to the law firm of Hopkins, Lawrence & Bailey in Springfield Gardens, New York. The title of his keynote address is "Thurgood Marshall: Little Man's Lion."