



**THE EIGHTH BIENNIAL  
JUST THE BEGINNING FOUNDATION  
CONFERENCE**

**“REACHING BACK AND LIFTING UP!”**



**SEPTEMBER 25-28, 2008  
WASHINGTON, D.C.**

**J.W. MARRIOTT HOTEL  
1331 PENNSYLVANIA AVENUE, NW  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20004**

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The Just The Beginning Foundation is coming to the Washington, D.C. area September 25-28, 2008, for its eighth biennial conference, “Reaching Back and Lifting Up!” The conference brings together a diverse group of federal and state judges, lawyers, law professors, and law, college, high school and middle school students to enjoy the living stories of judges of diverse backgrounds and to participate in public panel discussions focused on contemporary legal issues. The 2008 JTBF Conference is sponsored by the Consortium of Local and Federal Bar Associations of Washington, Virginia, and Maryland and the Just The Beginning Foundation. The conference co-chairs are: William T. Coleman, Jr. of O’Melveny & Myers LLP, Cherie R. Kiser, Managing Partner of Cahill Gordon & Reindel, LLP, and Timothy Lewis of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP. The President of the Just The Beginning Foundation’s Board of Directors is Patricia Brown Holmes of Schiff Hardin LLP. The Board includes a diverse group of lawyers and other professionals.

## 2008 JTBF CONFERENCE CO-CHAIRS



William T. Coleman, Jr.



Cherie Kiser



Judge Timothy Lewis (Ret)

## Background on JTBF

JTBF is a multi-racial non-profit organization composed of lawyers, judges, and other citizens who are dedicated to developing and nurturing interest in the law among young people from racial and other groups under-represented in the legal profession and supporting their continued advancement. JTBF's long-term goal is to increase racial diversity in the legal profession and on the bench.

When he reflected on his judicial appointments, President Jimmy Carter said, "We haven't done very much, but . . . [m]ore women, more blacks, more Hispanics have been appointed to the Federal Courts. . . . [T]he point is, that's still just a beginning." With those words in mind, and "A Celebration of the Integration of the Federal Judiciary" held in Chicago in 1992, the Just The Beginning Foundation ("JTBF") was born.

JTBF began with the idea of honoring Judge James Benton Parsons, the first Black United States District Court Judge. In 1992, Judge Parsons was retiring after more than thirty-one years of judicial service. Judge Parsons, whose modesty was legendary, initially did not agree to a proposed celebration dinner in his honor. After some reflection, however, Judge Parsons asked the

group to use the occasion to celebrate the integration of the federal bench.

From its inception, JTBF has helped to ensure that the rich stories of lawyers and judges of color would be preserved. As JTBF evolved, the lessons learned from these trailblazers inspired JTBF to focus its efforts on developing programs that would open up the pipeline of opportunity for young persons from diverse backgrounds. JTBF programs focus on enabling these youth to embark on successful careers in the legal profession.

## INAUGURAL JUST THE BEGINNING FOUNDATION JUDGE GROUP PHOTOGRAPH 1992



## JTBF Community-Based Programs

Since its inception, JTBF has developed and funded numerous community outreach programs. The following provide a sample of our programs.

***JTBF Summer Legal Institute:*** This nine-day program allows high school students from diverse backgrounds who aspire to enter the legal field the opportunity to enhance their writing, speaking, and leadership skills. With instruction from judges and lawyers, students learn from legal reasoning, case analysis, writing, negotiation, and mock oral argument exercises. Students in the Institute spend a day at a federal courthouse. In

addition, students and their parents/guardians/mentors receive college preparatory advice on topics such as preparing for standardized tests, completing applications, financial aid, and working toward the goal of attending law school.

In June 2008, we will initiate a JTBF Summer Legal Institute three day program for middle school students.

#### JTBF SUMMER LEGAL INSTITUTE CLASS 2007



**JTBF Law Student Extern Program:** This program places law students from diverse backgrounds in externships in state and federal judges' chambers across the country. Externs may work during the academic school year or summer, helping judges and law clerks on pending motions, trials, and appeals. Externs enhance their legal research and writing skills and gain invaluable experience, not only making them more competitive in the pool of judicial clerkship applicants, but also more competitive in the job market as a whole.

**JTBF Law Student Scholarships:** JTBF understands the importance of helping students from underrepresented groups pay for law school. At the 2008 conference, JTBF will present financial scholarships, as it has at previous conferences, to at least four outstanding law students from Washington, D.C., Maryland, and Virginia law schools.

**JTBF in the Schools:** JTBF conducts programming that targets under-served and minority high school and college students. For example, high school students serve as externs in legal settings and meet regularly for sessions including persuasive writing and college preparation. Students learn what lawyers do, the various types of contributions lawyers can make to the community, and the steps involved in obtaining a legal education and becoming a lawyer.

**JTBF "Share the Wealth" Program:** In an effort to increase the number of minority candidates for judicial clerkships, judges pre-screen clerkship candidates and share them with fellow judges. JTBF has helped many students secure state and federal judicial clerkships.

**JTBF Website:** The JTBF website, [www.jtbf.org](http://www.jtbf.org), is a helpful resource for high school, college, and law school students, as well as for members of the public and the legal community. In addition to providing information about opportunities for students interested in the law, it contains information about the history of minority judges in the federal judiciary, provides inspiring biographies of minority judges, and includes links to other related websites.

**JTBF Conferences:** The JTBF biennial conferences are a collaboration between JTBF and local communities. JTBF partners with local legal leaders, bar associations, and law schools to present a conference that reaches students, lawyers, and citizens in the community. In the past, judges have shared their stories with students and community members, and attendees at each conference have observed thought-provoking panels. JTBF conferences have enjoyed the support of many bar associations. During the course of the last seven conferences, JTBF's partners have included Wayne State University and the Damon J. Keith Collection, the Houston Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, the Philadelphia Bar Association, the Bar Association of San Francisco, the Cincinnati Bar Association, the Chicago Bar Association, and a host of local and national specialty, women,

and minority bar associations. Our law school partners for our conferences have included Stanford University, the University of Houston, Thurgood Marshall School of Law, and the University of Cincinnati. Howard University School of Law and The American University Washington College of Law are lead law schools coordinating with the Washington, DC area and The Catholic University of America law schools for the 2008 Conference. Our conference will be staffed by law student volunteers from local law schools and these law student volunteers will be guests at all conference events.

\* \* \*

Please visit the following website and click on number four, “Trailblazer Awards,” to see a compelling video about Judge Constance Baker Motley, Judge George Leighton, Judge Nathaniel Jones, and Harvard Law Professor Charles Ogletree, the recipients of the Trailblazer Award at the 2006 JTBF Conference. The video is approximately ten minutes long.

<http://www.cetconnect.org/search/results.asp?q=jtbf#>

## JTBF 2008 Conference

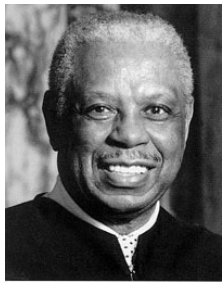
As noted, the 2008 Conference Co-Chairs are William T. Coleman, Jr. of O’Melveny & Myers LLP, Cherie R. Kiser, Managing Partner of Cahill Gordon & Reindel, LLP, and Timothy Lewis of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis LLP. The Federal Bar Association Chapters in the region are conference sponsors. Jack Coffey, President-elect of the Northern Virginia Federal Bar Chapter is coordinating the area bar leaders. The 2008 JTBF Conference Advisory Programming Co-Chairs are Judges Gerald Bruce Lee, Eastern District of Virginia, Richard W. Roberts, District of Columbia, Robert Gordon, United States Bankruptcy Judge for the District of Maryland and Alexander Williams, District of Maryland. They will be inviting district, circuit, tax court, court of claims, bankruptcy, magistrate, and state court judges from Washington D.C., Maryland, and Virginia to participate in the conference’s various panels.

### Opening Day – Thursday, September 25, 2008

On opening day, JTBF will host “Robes in the Law Schools.” Multiracial teams comprised of 50 federal and state judges will visit local high schools, colleges and law schools to share their paths to the bench, strategies and tips for success in the profession, and insight into career-building opportunities as externs and law clerks in the court system. JTBF will host “Robes in the Law Schools” in 14 Washington, DC, Maryland, and Northern Virginia area schools, including Georgetown, American, Catholic, George Washington, Howard, University of D.C., George Mason, University of Maryland, University of Baltimore, Herndon High, Mount Vernon High, Banneker, Bell Multicultural High, and Jeb Stuart High.

Opening day will conclude with the “Trailblazers Panel” and reception at Howard University Law School.

The 2008 JTBF Trailblazers panel will feature several judges, including Judge Damon J. Keith, United States Circuit Judge for the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit; Judge Consuelo B. Marshall, United States District Court for the Central District of California; and Judge Matthew J. Perry, United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina.



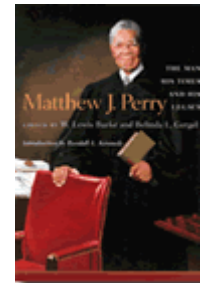
Judge Damon J. Keith, United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, has consistently been a courageous defender of the constitutional and civil rights of all people. One of Judge Keith's best known decisions, *United States v. Sinclair*, is known as the "Keith Decision." The United States Supreme Court unanimously affirmed Judge Keith's decision which prohibited President Richard Nixon and the federal government from engaging in domestic warrantless wiretapping directed at United States citizens because it was in violation of the Fourth Amendment.

Judge Keith's service off the bench is legendary as well. The Damon J. Keith Collection of African American Legal History at Wayne State University Law School is the first and only collection of its kind. Its *Marching Toward Justice* exhibit has traveled across the country, educating thousands about the Fourteenth Amendment. Judge Keith served as the National Chairman of the Judicial Conference Committee on the Bicentennial of the Constitution, and he served in 2005 as Co-Chair for the National Victory Celebration for the Farewell to Mrs. Rosa Parks. He has received numerous awards and honors, including the prestigious Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award; the Springarn Medal, the NAACP's highest award; and the Distinguished Service Award from the National Anti-Defamation League.



Judge Marshall began her legal career as a Deputy City Attorney for the City of Los Angeles, and later joined the law firm of Cochran & Atkins, where she handled both criminal and civil matters. Between 1971 and 1976, Judge Marshall was a Los Angeles Superior Court Commissioner where she was assigned to Civil Law and Motions, Family Court, and Juvenile Court. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter appointed her to the United States District Court for the Central District of California, and in 2001 she became the first woman to serve as the Chief Judge of that district. Judge Marshall has received many honors for her commitment to civil rights and equal justice for all. She recently became the 2007 recipient of the California Women Lawyers' 14<sup>th</sup> annual distinguished jurist award, whose honorees are recognized for their long standing judicial service and excellence.

Judge Matthew J. Perry will discuss his career as a lawyer during which he handled many cases involving the integration of public schools in South Carolina. Judge Perry and Judge Constance Baker Motley represented Harvey Gantt in the integration of Clemson University. After graduating from Clemson, Gantt became the first Black American elected Mayor of Charlotte, North Carolina. In a recent seminar, Judge Perry recalled the challenges that he faced as a lawyer confronting powerful figures in South Carolina and defending unpopular individuals and causes. Two years ago, former South Carolina Senator Fritz Hollings spoke about the tenacity of Judge Perry at the dedication of the new federal courthouse in Columbia, South Carolina named the "Matthew J. Perry Federal Courthouse." Judge Perry will also be available to discuss the book, *Matthew J. Perry: The Man, his Times, and his Legacy*, by Lewis Burke and Belinda Gergel, published by the University of South Carolina Press in 2004.



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## Conference Events – Friday, September 26, 2008



Judge Reggie Walton



Judge Marcia Cooke

The Pathfinder Judges Panel will be hosted by The American University Washington College of Law. The Pathfinder Judges Panel will include dialogue with United States District Judges Reggie B. Walton, (D.C. DC) and Judge Marcia Cooke, (D.C. S. Fla.).

Judge Walton is well known for his handling of high profile criminal cases, his work as a former Deputy Drug Czar, and his perspective on criminal justice issues. He was recently selected to serve on the United States Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court.

Judge Marcia Cooke has a unique story about her pathway to the bench. She has served as an assistant United States Attorney in Michigan, Magistrate Judge in Detroit, and now District Judge in Florida. Judge Cooke has also managed complex litigation and conducted cases involving national security and terrorism issues.

The Pathfinder Judges Panel will highlight inspiring stories about these two dynamic judges and their career paths to the bench.

## Conference Events – Saturday, September 27, 2008

Panel events and discussions will focus on topics including strategies for achieving excellence for general counsel, the impact of the media on the justice system, fixing racial inequalities in education, and at law schools, and attracting and inspiring younger generations of students and lawyers. These events, all open to the public, will be held at the J.W. Marriott Hotel on Pennsylvania Avenue, and are especially geared for the legal community and law students. Featured panelists will represent a variety of perspectives and strategies for successfully opening up the pipeline into the legal profession for persons of diverse backgrounds. As in the past, eminent Harvard Law School Professor Charles Ogletree will host a premier roundtable discussion. In addition, separate sessions for law school, college and high school students will take place, including an interactive workshop for high school students.

### 2008 PANELISTS INCLUDE:



Chris Johnson  
Senior Vice President  
General Counsel  
General Motors



Joel Klein  
Chancellor  
New York City



Billy Martin  
Sutherland Asbill



Professor Charles Ogletree



Eugene Robinson  
Washington Post Columnist



Nina Totenberg  
NPR Correspondent

The JTBF weekend will culminate with a closing reception and dinner which will honor legal trailblazers and award scholarships to law students. More than 800 guests attended the 2006 JTBF banquet in Cincinnati.

## Public Education Programming

***Preview of 2008-2009 Supreme Court Term:*** This panel will focus on upcoming cases and recent trends, and offer predictions for the 2008-2009 Supreme Court Term. Panelists include Professor Erwin Chemerinsky of Duke Law School; Maureen Mahoney of Latham & Watkins, LLC; and John Payton of the Legal Defense Fund.

***The Impact of the Media on the Quality of Justice - Can the Media Transform a Case?:*** Moderated by the Honorable Andre Davis, District Court Judge for the District of Maryland, this panel will discuss whether media coverage of a trial impacts the quality of the result of a case, as well as whether public attention and media coverage adversely or positively impacts the criminal justice system. Panelists include the Washington Post's Eugene Robinson; National Public Radio's Nina Totenberg; American University Washington College of Law Professor Angela Davis; and Defense Attorney Billy Martin.

***Youth Pathways - So You Want to be a Lawyer?:*** Moderated by the Honorable Ricardo M. Urbina, District Court Judge for the District of Columbia, this panel will focus on inspiring an interest in the law among young people from under-represented groups, as well as providing our young attendees with sound advice for navigating the law school application process. Panelists include Larry D. Thompson, Senior Vice President of Government Affairs, General Counsel, and Secretary of PepsiCo; John Truong of the U.S. Department of Justice; and Savalle C. Sims of Arent Fox.

*(Continued on Next Page)*

## Public Education Programming (cont'd)

***Fixing Racial Inequalities in Education:*** Moderated by renowned Harvard Law Professor Charles Ogletree, this panel will discuss what we can do to ensure that our public schools are competitive and successful, assuming limited viable legal remedies from courts to compensate for an evolving racial and ethnic demographic, as well as, what practices large urban school districts are employing now to successfully raise academic achievement levels. Panelists include Joel Klein, Chancellor, New York City Department of Education; Michelle Rhee, Chancellor, District of Columbia Public Schools; Andres Alonso, Chief Executive Officer, Baltimore City Public Schools, Roland Fryer, Professor of Economics at Harvard University; and Professor Theodore M. Shaw of Columbia Law School.

***Hot Topics for Corporate Counsel:*** Moderated by Virginia Hoptman of Womble Carlyle Sandridge & Rice, PLLC, this panel focuses on legal trends and issues on such topics as electronic discovery, spoliation, attorney-client privilege, and harnessing diversity to excel in legal services. Panelists include Thomas Sager, Vice President and Assistant General Counsel, DuPont; Christopher Johnson, Vice President and General Counsel; General Motors North America; Roderick Palmore, Executive Vice President, General Counsel, and Chief Compliance & Risk Management Officer, General Mills; and Sherry Bellamy, Vice President and General Counsel, Verizon Business Litigation & Regulatory.

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Colten Cummins Watson & Vincent, P.C.
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**FRIEND LEVEL** **\$2,500.00**

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**WE ARE A TAX-EXEMPT 501(c)(3) NON-PROFIT CORPORATION**

The Just The Beginning Foundation is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization and donations to JTBF are tax exempt under the Internal Revenue Code.

**NON DISCRIMINATION POLICY**

JTBF is a multiracial organization and we respect the dignity of diverse groups. We do not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, disability, marital status, gender orientation, national origin, religion, or color.

**VOLUNTEERS: A NOTE ABOUT HOW JTBF EXCELS IN PROGRAMMING**

JTBF depends, in part, upon volunteers to carry out a number of our programs. Many of our activities are supported by volunteer lawyers, law firms, judges, teachers, law students, community residents, and businesses. Some of the financial resources of the foundation are used to coordinate the many volunteers who assist us in our programs. By employing unpaid volunteers we are able to multiply the resources we employ for our programs.