

N E W S R E L E A S E

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CHESTER BLAIR TO BE HONORED WITH BAR ASSOCIATION'S EARL BURRUS DICKERSON AWARD FEBRUARY 11

CHICAGO, ILL. (February 5, 2009)—Renowned Chicago criminal defense and personal injury lawyer Chester L. Blair, Blair & Cole, will be honored by the Chicago Bar Association with the 2009 Earl Burrus Dickerson Award at a reception and luncheon beginning at 11:30 a.m., Wednesday, February 11, at the Standard Club, 320 S. Plymouth Court, Chicago. Tickets are available for \$65 per person by calling Tamra Drees at 312-554-2057 or register online at www.chicagobar.org

Chester L. Blair

Blair is a Texas native who became the first African American president of the CBA in 1990. Born in 1928, he started his working life as a manual laborer before entering Fisk University. When he was later hired by the U.S. Post Office, he transferred to Chicago State University graduating with his bachelor's in education in 1952. While teaching for seven years, he pursued a master's degree at Roosevelt University and then earned a JD in 1959 from John Marshall Law School.

Throughout his career, Blair has served a wide range of legal organizations with distinction including serving on advisory committees of the Illinois Supreme Court and the American Bar Association. He is a past-president of the Cook County Bar Association and a member of the Illinois State Bar Association and the Illinois Trial Lawyers Association. He served on the boards of the Illinois Institute for Continuing Legal Education and the Chicago Bar Foundation. He was named a fellow of the

American Bar Foundation in 1987. Blair has been a lecturer and professor for the Association of Trial Lawyers of America. From 1984 to 1998, he wrote a weekly column for the *Chicago Daily Defender*.

Blair and his wife, Judith, are longtime residents of the Hyde Park neighborhood where they raised their six children.

About the Award

This special award was established in honor of the late Earl B. Dickerson who was an outstanding lawyer and among the first African-American members of The Chicago Bar Association. His life and professional career were devoted to the law and helping others gain equality and justice. In this spirit, The Chicago Bar Association established the Dickerson Award to recognize and honor minority lawyers and judges whose careers at the bar emulate the courage and dedication of Dickerson in making the law the key to justice for all in our society.

Past Recipients of the Earl Burrus Dickerson Award include:

Hon. Harold Washington (1991)
Mayor, City of Chicago

Hon. Charles E. Freeman (1992)
Chief Justice, Illinois Supreme Court

Hon. Thurgood Marshall (1993)
Justice, U.S. Supreme Court

Hon. George N. Leighton (1994)
Judge, U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois

Hon. Earl E. Strayhorn (1995)
Presiding Judge, First Municipal District,
Circuit Court of Cook County

Jewel Lafontant-Mankarious (1996)
Partner, Holleb & Coff

James D. Montgomery (1997)
James D. Montgomery & Associates, Ltd.

Hon. Ann C. Williams (1998)
Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, Seventh Circuit

Hon. William Cousins, Jr. (1999)
Justice, Illinois Appellate Court

Earl L. Neal (2000)
Earl L. Neal & Associates

Hon. Damon J. Keith (2001)
Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals, Sixth Circuit

Hon. Timothy C. Evans (2002)
Chief Judge, Circuit Court of Cook County

Hon. John H. Stroger, Jr. (2003)
President, Cook County Board of Commissioners

Hon. Blanche M. Manning (2004)
U.S. District Court, Northern District of Illinois

Hon. Glenn T. Johnson (2005)
Ret. Illinois Appellate Court Justice

Hon. R. Eugene Pincham (2006)
Ret. Illinois Appellate Court Justice

Donald Hubert (2007)
The Hubert Law Group

Rita A. Fry (2008)
Retired Cook County Public Defender

Eileen M. Letts (2008)
Greene and Letts

About The Chicago Bar Association

Founded in 1874, the 23,000-member CBA is one of the largest metropolitan bar associations in the country. The CBA is governed by 24 Officers and members of the Board of Managers. Its 55 Practice Committees, 23 Service Committees and 15 Special Committees provide a wide variety of services to the legal profession, the state and federal courts and the public. For more information visit the CBA web site at www.chicagobar.org.