



Legacy Award

*Reverend
Dr. Wesley S. Williams, Jr.*

In Law

Rev. Dr. Wesley Williams completed his primary education in the District of Columbia Public Schools. His pursuit of a career in law led him to Harvard College where he graduated with a Bachelor's degree, magna cum laude. He was a Woodrow Wilson Fellow at the Fletcher School of International Law & Diplomacy where he attained a Master's degree. At Harvard Law School, he received a Juris Doctorate; a Master of Laws degree (LL.M) at Columbia University Law School; and his Doctor of Law degree with honors (LL.D) at Virginia Union University. He attained a Doctor of Ministry degree (D.Min) from Virginia Theological Seminary.

His legal training began as a summer associate/law clerk at the law offices of Wesley Samuel Williams, Sr. (Washington, DC, 1964, 1965), Mayer, Brown & Platt (Chicago, IL, 1966), Pepper, Hamilton & Scheetz (Philadelphia, PA, 1967). From 1967 to 1968 he served as an instructor at Columbia University Law School. During that time, he was legal counsel for Vice Chairman Walter Fauntroy, Washington DC City Council. He served as legal counsel from 1968 to 1970 for the United States Senate Committee on the District of Columbia.

He worked as an associate in the private sector for the international law firm of Covington & Burling in Washington, DC, from 1970 to 1975, then as partner from 1975-2004. He had many legal or quasi-legal engagements while at Covington & Burling, including adjunct professor, Georgetown University Law Center (1971-73). He also served as counsel for the National Tenants' Organization, for banks and bank holding companies all across the United States, for banks financing major commercial or government buildings in DC, and for Trustees for bankruptcy reorganization of Penn Central Railroad. He served as board member and/or director for many companies, corporations and organizations. His professional associations are many and include such organizations as American Law Institute, all necessary bars, from United States Supreme Court to lower courts (federal and local). He also served as a member (and panel chair) of the President's United States Circuit Judge Nominating Commission, 1977-80, and president of the well over 40 thousand-member Harvard Law School Association worldwide, 1992-94. Legal publications include articles in four professional journals; chapters in five books on real estate workout strategies; co-author of "A Practical Guide to FIRREA: The Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989," and Member of the editorial board of two real estate finance and development journals.