

29 BLACK AMERICAN FACTS

FIRSTS:

1 Macon Bolling Allen was the first licensed African American lawyer in the U.S. and helped pave the way for black legal professionals nationwide. He was also a justice of the peace in Massachusetts, making him the first African American judicial official.

2 John Stewart Rock was the first black attorney admitted to the bar of the U.S. Supreme Court in 1865.

3 Charlotte E. Ray was a pioneer in her field and was the first African American female lawyer in the U.S. gaining admission in 1872. She also was the first black woman legal graduate from Howard University.

4 Butler R. Wilson, William Henry Lewis and William R. Morris were the first black attorneys admitted to the American Bar Association, in 1911.

5 A trailblazing lawyer and civil rights advocate, **Sadie Tanner Mossell Alexander** was the first African American woman to receive a Ph.D. in economics in the U.S., and the first woman to receive a law degree from the University of Pennsylvania.

6 Jane Bolin was the first African American woman to graduate from Yale Law School. She first broke ground as the first African American woman

to join the New York Bar Association and the first to work in the city's legal department. She became the first female black judge in the U.S., in 1939.

7 Constance Baker Motley was the first African American woman to join the federal judiciary. Through her work as the first female attorney for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, she won nine out of 10 cases that she argued – even writing the original complaint for *Brown v. Board of Education*.

8 Charles Hamilton Houston played a role in nearly every civil rights case that was seen before the U.S. Supreme Court between 1930 and 1950. Houston became the first African American to serve as editor of the *Harvard Law Review*.

9 In 1947, **Herbert E. Millen** became the first black judge appointed to the bench in Pennsylvania and the thirteenth black judge appointed to the U.S. He served on the Philadelphia Municipal Court and on local NAACP boards.

10 Thurgood Marshall was the first African American associate justice appointed to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1967, paving the way for **Clarence Thomas** as his successor.

11 Philadelphia's **Raymond Pace Alexander** was a prominent civil rights advocate, lawyer, and politician, and became the first African American judge

appointed to the Pennsylvania Court of Common Pleas, in 1959. He also became the first black graduate of the University of Pennsylvania's Wharton School of Business.

12 In 1972, **Barbara Jordan** made history for being the first African American woman elected to Congress from the South. She also was the first female representative from Texas and the first African American woman elected to the Texas Senate.

13 Robert N.C. Nix Sr. was a Philadelphia lawyer and member of the U.S. Congress from 1958 to 1979. He was one of the first African American lawyers to become a significant political leader in the city and the first black representative from Pennsylvania. His son, **Robert N.C. Nix Jr.**, went on to become Chief Justice of Pennsylvania's Supreme Court and the first black chief justice of any state's highest court.

14 In 2013, political leader and lawyer **Dennis Archer** became the 127th president of the American Bar Association, thus becoming the first person of color elected to the highest office of the association.

15 In 2008, **Barack Obama** was sworn in as the 44th President of the U.S., becoming our nation's first black President. He was historically reelected for a second term in November 2012.

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16 **Eric Holder Jr.** was the first African American U.S. Attorney General, serving from 2009 to 2015 in the Obama administration.

17 **Loretta Lynch** served as the first African American female U.S. Attorney General, from 2015 to 2017, appointed by President Barack Obama.

18 In 2015, **Paulette Brown** was the first black woman to lead the American Bar Association as the association's President.

19 Local Pennsylvanian **Cheryl Austin** was elected as the first black female to the Montgomery County Court of Common Pleas, in 2011.

IMPACT:

20 **Fred Gray's** impact on the civil rights movement and pivotal role in dismantling legal segregation reshaped the future of America.

21 **J. Austin Norris** was the leader of Philadelphia's Seventh Ward, an editorial voice of several black newspapers and a prominent attorney.

22 **Cecil B. Moore** was a highly renowned Philadelphia trial lawyer and civil rights leader who helped ignite the modern civil rights movement in Philadelphia that led to the integration of Girard College.

23 Champion of civil rights causes, **William T. Coleman Jr.** was an influential lawyer who also served as the U.S. Secretary of Transportation, making him the second African American to serve in a White House Cabinet.

24 An extraordinary leader during the civil rights movement, **A. Leon Higginbotham Jr.** was a successful lawyer who later became a highly respected federal trial judge.

25 Profoundly committed to honesty, fairness and increasing access to justice, **Judge Sheila Woods-Skipper** currently sits on the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas.

26 Champion in the Philadelphia court system **Jacqueline F. Allen** is an administrative judge on the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas.

27 **Judge Carolyn Nichols** was elected to the Pennsylvania Superior Court in 2017. She was formerly a judge on the Philadelphia County Court of Common Pleas in Pennsylvania. Prior to her election to the Court of Common Pleas, Nichols

held a number of positions, including Legislative Assistant to former Philadelphia Councilwoman Augusta Clarke, Assistant City Solicitor and Deputy Secretary of External Affairs for the Office of the Mayor of Philadelphia.

28 **Judge Clifford Scott Green** was appointed judge of the County Court of Philadelphia in 1964, and President Richard M. Nixon named him to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in 1971. In 2013, Temple University Beasley Law School established The Honorable Clifford Scott Green Lectureship to perpetuate the civil rights legacy of Green and to honor his service to Temple University.

29 **Charles W. Bowser** and **William H. Hastie** were two influential Pennsylvanians. Bowser, a civic leader, and his two campaigns for Mayor of Philadelphia inspired African American political leaders. Judge Hastie was a lawyer and educator who was involved in many of the most important breaking cases during the civil rights years.