

# NAACP

## NORTH CAROLINA

NC NAACP STATE CONFERENCE OF BRANCHES  
34<sup>TH</sup> HUMANITARIAN BANQUET AWARD

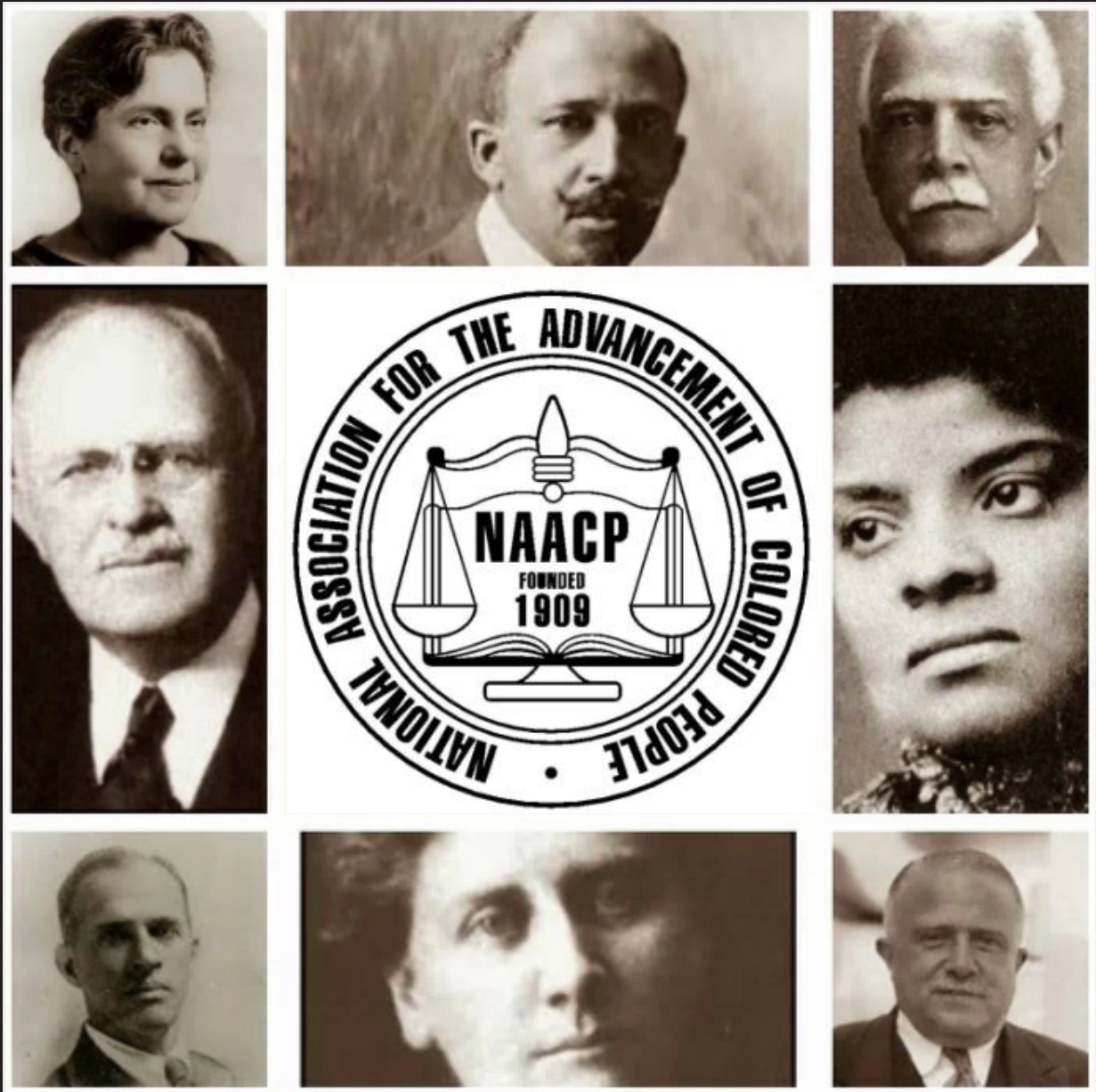
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### EQUIPPING THE RESISTORS

Saturday, January 27, 2018



# OUR FOUNDERS



## MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure the political, educational, social, and economic equality of rights of all persons and to eliminate racial hatred and racial discrimination.

## VISION STATEMENT

The vision of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People is to ensure a society in which all individuals have equal rights and there is no racial hatred or racial discrimination.

# NC NAACP STATE CONFERENCE

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## **"Welcome to the 34th Annual Humanitarian of the Year Award Banquet"**

Dear NAACP Sisters, Brothers and Friends,

Greetings and welcome from the North Carolina State Conference. Once again, the eyes of the nation are on us. We come together at our Winter Meeting and Humanitarian Award to reflect, learn, and grow from decades of work against the sin and system of racism in North Carolina. Many of us have made good social justice fighting friends in the last few years -- some call them our 'rotunda friends.

Several thousands of us sang and prayed truth to power around the rotunda over the years and we must enter 2018 with that same spirit. We know, the struggle continues. The forces of hate and fear we witnessed in North Carolina have been loosed and legitimized by the Republican Party on the national stage.

Donald Trump is leading a fractured Party of Lincoln, barely held together by deceit and hypocrisy, washes its dirty laundry in public. The Republican Party's intolerant strain has broken loose and is slouching around the main ring of the Republican Circus, like a beast from the depths of hell, and no one in the Party seems able to stop it.

The gigantic elephants hover just outside the tent: poverty, joblessness, racism, sexism and homophobia. No one dares to touch the fact that age-old bastions of racism in the criminal justice system are beginning to fall apart in front of everyone's eyes. North Carolina is leading the charge in advocating and fighting for the wrongfully convicted.

The Winter Session will be full of lessons we have learned from the previous years of intense struggle. Fighting the forces of fear in the Streets, in the Legislature, in the Courts, and at the Ballot Box. We will take our 'Battle to the Ballot Boxes' this year!

For these strong wonderful years of deepening our coalition, across the state, we want to thank every member of the NAACP. We know that the angels of justice and love have been escorting us on our millions of miles of travel over the highways of the old North State. We have been so blessed. We hope to get a chance to see each of you up close while you are here.

With love for you and love for justice,

**Dr. T. A. Spearman**  
**President, NC NAACP**

**Dr. Terrance Ruth**  
**Executive Director, NC NAACP**

# HUMANITARIAN PAST HONOREES

2017

**Attorney General Loretta Lynch**

83rd United States Attorney General

2016

**Honorable Representative Mickey Michaux**

NC House of Representatives

2015

**Dr. Gaddis J. Faulcon**

Former Interim President Shaw University

2014

**Moral Monday Attorneys**

2013

**Attorney Anita S. Earls**

Executive Director of the Southern Coalition for Social Justice

2012

**Andrea L. Harris**

Founder and Senior Fellow of The Institute

2011

**Martin Eakes**

CEO Self Help Credit Union

# HUMANITARIAN PAST HONOREES

2010

**Donice Marie Harbor**

(October 29, 1972 – July 15, 2009)

2009

**Julian Bond**

(January 14, 1940 - August 15, 2015)

2008

**The Honorable Milton “Toby” Fitch, Jr**

2007

**Carolyn Q. Coleman**

1st. Vice President NC NAACP State Conference

2006

**Dr. E. Lavonia Allison**

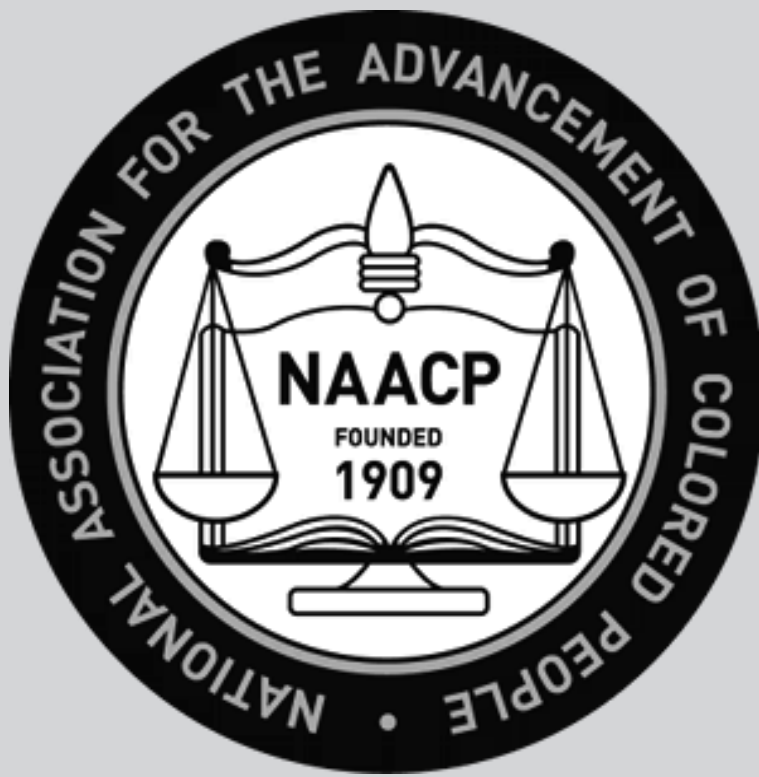
2005

**Pastor John P. Kee**

Pastor New Life City of Praise

# 34<sup>TH</sup>

ANNUAL HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR AWARDS BANQUET



## BANQUET PROGRAM

### PRELUDE

**Music:** Berean Baptist Church Choir

### WELCOME & PURPOSE

**MS. STEPHANIE BUTTS**

*NC NAACP Youth & College Division Preseident*

**DR. T ANTHONY SPEARMAN**

*NC NAACP State Conference President*

### INVOCATION & GRACE

**BISHOP TONYA RAWLS**

*NC NAACP Executive Committee, LGBTQ Chair*

### LIFT EV'RY VOICE AND SING

**Video (Audience Stands)**

### RECOGNITION OF NAACP LEADERSHIP

**DR. TERRANCE RUTH**

*NC NAACP Executive Director*

### RECOGNITION OF ELECTED OFFICIALS & SPECIAL GROUPS

**MR. DERRICK SMITH**

*NC NAACP Executive Committee  
Political Action Chair*

### RECOGNITION OF CORPORATE SPONSORS

**DAPHNE HOLMES-JOHNSON**

*NC NAACP Executive Committee  
Convention Planning Chair  
Assistant Treasurer*

### MUSICAL SELECTION

#### Introduction of Humanitarian Honoree    Humanitarian of the Year Award

Presented by

Bishop William Barber II, NC NAACP State Conference President Emeritus & Mrs. Carolyn Q. Coleman

Honoree:

North Carolina Secretary of Veteran Affairs  
**Larry Hall**

#### Charles A. McLean Distinguished Service Award

Presented by

Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, NC NAACP President & Valera Russ, NC NAACP Freedom Chair

Honorees:

**Rev. Dr. John Mendez**

Pastor Emmanuel Baptist Church, Winston-Salem, NC  
NC NAACP Executive Committee, Prison Support Chair

**Duke Wrongful Conviction Clinic**

### CLOSING REMARKS

**DR. T ANTHONY SPEARMAN**

*NC NAACP State Conference President*

### BENEDICTION

# NC NAACP LEADERSHIP

## DR. ANTHONY T. SPEARS

NC NAACP President



Rev. Dr. T. Anthony Spearman has a Bachelor of Science Degree Summa Cum Laude from Mercy College in Yonkers, N.Y. in 1995; a Master of Divinity Degree Magna Cum Laude from Hood Theological Seminary in Salisbury, N.C. in 1998 ; and a Doctor of Ministry from the United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio in 2003. He is proficient in Greek, Hebrew and Spanish. Dr. Spearman is also a certified AIDS Counselor with the JRW Institute of Alcohol Studies in New York in 1991.

Dr. Spearman is an ordained minister with the African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church denomination (A.M.E. Zion). He has worked extensively in leadership of the denomination in North Carolina on many levels since 1997, and has been the pastor of St. Philip AME Zion Church in Greensboro, N.C since 2014. Prior to his pastoral career, Dr. Spearman worked in correctional institutions, hospitals, colleges, and community based programs as a substance abuse counselor.

## DR. TERRANCE RUTH

NC NAACP Executive Director



Dr. Terrance Ruth is a Education Consultant and former Administrator for Wake County Public School. Dr. Ruth is the former AMIKids Infinity Wake Principal. Also, Terrance held a Research Assistant position at the Friday Institute for Educational Innovation at North Carolina University. Terrance earned his PhD from the University of Central Florida in the college of Public Affairs. Terrance research interest includes the theoretical areas of Globallity and Structuration with a focus on future projections in cultural perceptions.



# 2018 HUMANITARIAN OF THE YEAR HONOREE



**Larry D. Hall** is currently serving as the Secretary for the North Carolina Department of Military & Veterans Affairs. Secretary Hall represented Durham County, North Carolina's 29th District in the House of Representatives, since 2006 and he led House Democrats since 2012.

Born and raised in his district and a student of public schools, Secretary Hall earned a B.S. with Honors in Political Science and Business from Johnson C. Smith University and a J.D. from the School of Law at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. Upon undergrad graduation, he was commissioned as an Officer in the United States Marine Corps. A decorated officer, Secretary Hall served 16 years in the United States Marines and Marine Corps Reserves and served in the support of the Operations in the Middle East in Lebanon and Iran. Secretary Hall has been awarded the Navy Achievement Medal, the Marine Corps Reserve Medal, the Armed Forces Reserve Medal, and a Meritorious Unit Citation from the United States Marine Corps. He served as a Rifle Platoon Commander, Weapons Company Executive Officer, Training Officer, Battalion Area Security Officer, Staff Judge Advocate, Communications Security Officer and Logistics Officer.

Secretary Hall also served as Legal Officer and was formerly Commandant for the Marine Corps League Detachment, which assists Marines transitioning from activity duty to civilian life in locating employment, housing and educational opportunities for their families.

Secretary Hall is an active member of the community. He has served as an Executive Committee Member and Economic Committee Chairman of the Durham Branch of the NAACP, as Secretary and Chairman of the Durham Business and Professional Chain, and served on the Durham Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. He has also served as Executive Officer of the Young Marines Program, Board Chairman of the Durham Companions Mentor Program, and as an instructor and training officer teaching youth leadership, discipline, custom, courtesies, and traditions of the Marine Corps.

Secretary Hall's service to North Carolina continues to be merited, receiving the NAACP's President's Award, Equality in Legislation Leadership Award, and Excellence from the Courtroom to the Capital Community Service Award. Secretary Hall has been featured multiple times in *Governing* magazine and has been honored as a Champion of NC Working Families, a 100% Environmental Champion, and a Defender of Justice for his commitment to safeguarding voting rights, expanding opportunities throughout the state for individuals and communities of low incomes, and protecting vulnerable families and members of the military from predatory lending.

As House Democratic Leader, Secretary Hall served on the state's Economic Development Board, the state's Innovation Council, The North Carolina Courts Commission—Chairperson, The Duke Medical Center Advisory Board, the Homeland Security, Military, and Veterans Affairs Committee—Chairman, and has been inducted as a Toll Fellow by the National Conference of State Governments. He was elected to the Democratic Legislative Campaign Committee (DLCC) 2015 Board of Directors to devise and execute nationwide election strategy in state legislatures. Secretary Hall also is Chair of the North Carolina Legislative Black Caucus Foundation.

## 34<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL HUMANITARIAN AWARD BANQUET

### 2017- 2019 Executive Committee Members

**Dr. T. Anthony Spearman, President**

**Carolyn Q. Coleman, 1st Vice President**  
**Carolyn McDougal, 2nd Vice President**  
**Keith Rivers, 3rd Vice President**  
**Courtney Patterson, 4th Vice President**  
**Sylvia E. Barnes, Secretary**  
**O'Linda D. Watkins, Assistant Secretary,**  
**WIN Chair**  
**Willie Sinclair, Treasurer**  
**Daphne Holmes-Johnson, Assistant Treasurer, Convention Planning Chair**  
**Melinda Lowrance, Director, District 1**  
**Mary Degree, Director, District 2**  
**Amos McClorey, Director, District 3**  
**Sterling Howard, Director, District 4**  
**Rev. Clarence Johnson, Director, District 5**  
**Herman Tyson, Director, District 6**  
**Rev. Donald Matthews, Director, District 7**  
**Keith Cook, Director, District 8**  
**James E. Buxton, Director, District 9**  
**Mary Perry, Director, District 10**  
**Tony Burnette, Director, District 11**  
**Kevin Lighty, Director, District 12**  
**Lon D. Moore, Director, District 13**  
**Casandra Belcher Tripp, Director, District 14**  
**John E. Williams, Director, District 15**  
**Deborah Dicks Maxwell, Director, District 16**  
**Vera Bassett, Memorial Chair**  
**Ana Blackburn, Latino Community Chair**  
**Reuben Blackwell, Community Coordination Chair**  
**Rev. Dr. Cardes Brown, Religious Emphasis Chair**  
**Sue Perry Cole, Housing Chair**  
**Robert Cunningham, Jr., Pan-Hellenic Chair**  
**Dennis Gaddy, Criminal Justice Chair**  
**Rev. Dr. John Mendez, Prison Support Chair**  
**Joyce H. Johnson, Labor and Industry Chair**  
**Atty. Irving Joyner, Legal Redress Chair**  
**Dr. Tim Tyson, History Chair**  
**Avie Lester, Personnel Committee Chair**  
**Jerry McCombs, Membership & Life Membership Chair**

**Michael McLean, Armed Services & Veteran's Affair Chair**  
**Rev. Dr. Rodney Sadler, Health Chair**  
**Atty. Al McSurley, Communications, Press & Publicity Chair**  
**Valera J. Russ, Freedom Chair**  
**Derick Smith, Political Action Chair**  
**Mark Jewell, Education Chair**  
**Gerry McCants, Economic Development Chair**  
**Rev. Sekinah Hamlin, Sorority Chair**  
**Eugene Taylor, Prince Hall Family Chair**  
**Dr. Enrique Gomez, Branch Support Chair**  
**Tanya White, Technology Chair**  
**Marcus Fairley, Young Adult Chair**  
**Dr. Deborah Barnes, Anti-Poverty Chair**  
**Gerry McCants, Economic Development Chair**  
**Kim Porter, Environmental Justice Chair**  
**Bishop William Barber, II, President Emeritus**

### **Executive Committee Youth and College Division**

**Stephanie Butts, Youth & Collage, President**  
**Lauryn Dowd, 1st Vice President**  
**Matthew Hines, 2nd Vice President**  
**Jeneice Mason-Carter, 3rd Vice President**  
**Essence Morgan, Secretary**  
**Alyssa Wilson, Assistant Secretary**  
**Adenike Irving-Shabazz, Treasurer**  
**Johna Speller, Assistant Treasurer**  
**Natalie Jenkins, Political Action Chair**  
**Jada Harris, Educational Chair**  
**Jessica Franks, Juvenile Justice Chair**  
**Ahmad Whitaker, Membership Chair**  
**Aliyah Ferrell**

## Distinguished Service



### **Charles A. McLean NC NAACP 1<sup>st</sup> Field Director**

Charles A. McLean was born in Harnett County, North Carolina, in 1909. He attended elementary school in Dunn and Hillside Park High School in Durham, graduating in June 1927. He attended Winston-Salem Teachers College, qualifying for a North Carolina teacher's certificate at the age of nineteen. McLean subsequently taught school at the Bonnie Dome School in Cumberland County. In 1931 he entered West Virginia State College and earned a degree in business administration in 1935. After graduating, he worked for his family's business--the W.A. McLean & Son Monument Company. He later organized the Wholesale Baking Company in Winston-Salem and became a partner and manager. During WWII, McLean worked as a foreman at the Metro Decorating Company, which was involved in constructing military installations and housing projects. In 1942 he worked for the IRS as a deputy collector, and later was appointed Administrator for War Finance for the state of North Carolina. After the war McLean returned to Winston-Salem and organized a property management company. In 1950 he began a long-time association with the NAACP by accepting a position as director of Special Assignments for the voter registration program. In 1951 McLean became field director of the North Carolina Conference of Branches, consisting of 35 local branches. He served in this capacity until his retirement in 1978, by which time there were over one hundred local branches. McLean's work with the State Conference of Branches involved building up local NAACP branches, work for desegregation, and supporting voter education and voter registration campaigns aimed at increasing representation of African Americans in North Carolina.

## Winner of the 2018 Charles A. McLean Award

**JOHN MENDEZ, D. MIN, D. D.**



### **BEAUTIFUL ARE HIS FEET**

*"How then shall they call on him in whom they have not believed? And how shall they believe in him of whom they have not heard? And how shall they hear without a preacher? And how shall they preach, except they be sent? As it is written, how beautiful are the feet of them that preach the gospel of peace, and bring glad tidings of good things."*

Prophet, preacher, pastor, professor, philosopher, psychotherapist and activist are just a few adjectives that describe the life, work, and ministry of John Mendez. Pastor Mendez has been the senior Minister of the Emmanuel Baptist Church since 1983, after leaving the Pleasant Grove Baptist Church where he served for six years.

Pastor Mendez believes in a holistic approach to ministry where people come to recognize the interrelatedness of the social and the spiritual, the sacred and the secular. The whole person must be ministered to. Throughout his 30 plus years as a Pastor, he has been a voice for the voiceless while at the same time equipping and empowering others to speak truth to power. At Emmanuel, Pastor Mendez has organized various ministries to raise self-awareness, consciousness, and instill pride in the members, especially youth through the Kemet Academy, and the Kemet Summer Youth Camp, which provides summer employment for teenagers and young adults. Pastor Mendez's passion for bible study promotes a scholarly approach to biblical studies, and through church sponsored Christian Education seminars and institutes, the church interacts with the academy and participates in regular cultural, biblical, and theological programs. In 2000, the church under Pastor Mendez's leadership completed a new multimillion dollar sanctuary and classroom edifice.

Pastor Mendez has served on many international and national boards and committees: the Racial Justice Working Group and the General Board of the National Council of Churches, Partners in Ecumenism, and the Urban-Rural Commission of the World Council of Churches, the Black Theology Project Board, the Human Rights Commission of the Baptist World Alliance, and as an honorary member of the All Africa Conference of Churches in Nairobi, Kenya. He was the first African American pastor to address the General Board in 1987 in Madagascar. Pastor Mendez initiated a Progressive National Baptist movement in Wolver Hampton and London, England after preaching a week revival. He was a delegate to the United Nations Conference on Racism in Quito, Ecuador where he helped to write the U. S. document that was presented in Durban, South Africa. Also, through his efforts, a Progressive National Baptist Church was established in Quito. He has served as chairperson of the Home Mission Board of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, and Second and First Vice President of the General Baptist State Convention of North Carolina. He is presently the Chairperson of the Social Justice Committee. He served on the North Carolina Psychology Board after being appointed by Governor Jim Hunt. He is on the Forsyth Tech Advisory Committee for the school of nursing. Pastor is also a past president of the Minister's Conference of Winston Salem.

Noted for his contributions to Civil and Human Rights, Pastor Mendez served as a consultant on many international fact finding commissions: He investigated the Vegas Island Pollution crisis in Puerto Rico, U. S. War Crimes in Nicaragua and El Salvador, war crimes in Angola; he also was part of an investigation team to study sacred land rights and sites, as well as sacred rites as it affected indigenous people such as the Hawaiians, Native Americans, particularly the Black Hills land rights issues of the Lakota Indians in South Dakota, the

## CHARLES A. MCLEAN AWARD

Mount Graham sacred land rights and sites issues of the Apache Nation in San Carlos, Arizona,. He was a part of a fact finding commission that investigated Environmental Racism and its effects on African American communities in Louisiana. Pastor Mendez joined an interfaith group of religious leaders who went to Iraq in search of peace and reconciliation before the second war. He also addressed a large anti-war peace audience at the Riverside Church in New York City just prior to going to Iraq.

Pastor Mendez is one of the founding members and chairperson of Citizens United for Justice that successfully led the city in obtaining a citizens-police review board in Winston Salem. He was a founding member and participant in SACSI, which brought together clergy, law enforcement, and the community in a united effort to reduce teen gun violence in Winston Salem. He presently serves on the Daryl Hunt Innocence Project Board and provides counseling for the Re-Entry Program for ex-offenders. Pastor Mendez also served as a consultant for Bridging the Gap Cultural Competence Program of the Urban League.

His lecture and preaching experiences have taken him to many college and university campuses: Harvard Law and Divinity Schools in Cambridge, Mass, Bates College in Maine, University of Alabama at Birmingham, Delaware State University , North Carolina University Law School in Chapel Hill, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, Duke University School of Public Policy in Durham, Appalachian State University, North Carolina State University for the Society of Afro-American Students, Campbell University, North Carolina Central University, Winston Salem State University, Wake Forest University, Shaw University, Elon College, and Livingston College.

He is also Associate Professor of Systematic Theology, Philosophical Theology, African American Philosophy at Shaw Divinity School,

In 1993, Pastor Mendez was the keynote preacher at the Thomas Dorsey National Convention of Gospel choirs and choruses. He was also the preacher in 1993 for Freedom Night of the Progressive National Baptist Convention. In 1986, he delivered a paper at the Second Martin Luther King Jr. Theological Conference in Havana, Cuba and later preached a revival at the First Baptist Church in Matanzas, Cuba. Pastor Mendez is a founding member of Reframing the Dialogue on Racism, which was born out of the Burn Churches crisis after he and 42 other ministers met with President Clinton and Attorney General Janet Reno to acquire government involvement and assistance in this crisis. RTDOR provides seminars on multiculturalism and diversity, which includes indigenous persons as presenters.

Pastor Mendez received a BA from Shaw University in Raleigh, North Carolina; M. Div. from Southeaster Baptist Theological Seminary, Wake Forest, North Carolina, Doctor of Ministry from United Theological Seminary in Dayton, Ohio, and a special training certificate in Pastoral Counseling and psychotherapy from the Post Graduate Center of Mental Health in New York City. He is also a graduate of The Institute of Contemporary Psychotherapy and Psychoanalysis in Washington D. C. Pastor Mendez was a participant in the first pilot project on the Black Church's Economic Responsibility for a New Economic Agenda at Harvard University Divinity School.

Pastor Mendez's accolades range from Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities to the Winston Salem Chronicle's Man of the Year in 1994. He received the President's award of the Progressive National Baptist Convention, the Alpha Award of merit by Omicron Gamma Lunda Chapter of Alpha Phi Fraternity, the Achievement Award from the Winston Salem Urban League, the Honorary Keeper of the Constitution of the State of North Carolina by the Department of Secretary of State. In 1991, he was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Shaw University Divinity School. In 2006, Pastor Mendez was inducted into the Honorary Board of Preachers at Morehouse College, Atlanta, Georgia.

Pastor Mendez is a member of several distinguished fraternal organizations and societies: American Psychological Association, the African American Philosophy Society: Philosophy Born of Struggle, the Association for the Study of African American Life and History (ASALA), Academy of Religion, Society For the Study of Biblical Literature, etc.

Pastor Mendez is married to the former Sarah Lee Howard and together they have two adult children, Sekou and Jamila, and they are the proud grandparents of five grandchildren.

Duke Wrongful Conviction Clinic  
**Winner of the 2018 Charles A. McLean Award**



Attorney Theresa Newman

Attorney Jim Coleman

Atty. Jamie Lau

Sarah Webb Holsapple

The Duke Center for Criminal Justice and Professional Responsibility is devoted to the promotion of criminal justice in North Carolina and elsewhere, and to teaching and training students, lawyers, prosecutors, judges, and the general public to identify, remedy, and prevent the wrongful conviction of innocent people. The Center pursues these goals through a series of coordinated academic, advocacy, and public activities, including published papers, extra-curricular programs, and public education. The Center and the NC NAACP have co-authored several amicus briefs in support of the Racial Justice Act, and have partnered together on several other occasions in their common goals of educating the public and improving the criminal justice system.

The Center's principal teaching components are the Duke Law School Wrongful Convictions Clinic and the student-run Duke Law Innocence Project®. In both, Clinic Attorneys Jim Coleman, Theresa Newman, and Jamie Lau teach students about the causes of wrongful convictions and then train them in how to investigate cases of possible wrongful conviction, and, when necessary, how to litigate them in court. Together, the attorneys and students spend hundreds of hours on individual cases, reading the case files, interviewing witnesses, working with experts, presenting the findings to State actors, drafting and filing legal documents, and litigating the cases in court. The Clinic was co-founded and is co-directed by Jim Coleman and Theresa Newman, and Jamie Lau serves as the Clinic supervising attorney.

Following is a list of the exonerations that the Clinic has secured, as well as some of the other cases the Clinic is actively pursuing.

**Exonerations**

*Totaling more than 98 years of wrongful imprisonment*

**LaMonte Armstrong (Guilford County):** Mr. Armstrong's conviction was overturned in June 2012, after he served 17 years for the murder of his family friend and college professor. While preparing for the hearing on the claims raised by the Clinic, the State identified the actual perpetrator and joined the Clinic in seeking Mr. Armstrong's release. Mr. Armstrong later received a pardon of innocence from Governor McCrory.

**Howard Dudley (Lenoir County):** Mr. Dudley's conviction was overturned in March 2016, after he served 24 years on a charge of child sexual abuse. The only evidence implicating Mr. Dudley was the testimony of his 9-year-old daughter, who recanted shortly after trial and spent the next 24 years trying to right the wrong her false testimony caused. The Clinic learned and proved that Mr. Dudley's daughter has an intellectual deficiency and suffers from certain psychological conditions that made her particularly susceptible to leading questions and interrogations. The Judge agreed, granting relief on all of the claims raised by the Clinic and proclaiming that the system had failed Mr. Dudley.

## CHARLES A. MCLEAN AWARD

**Shawn Massey (Mecklenburg County):** Mr. Massey's conviction was overturned in May 2010, after he served 12 years for the armed robbery of a young mother in a Charlotte apartment complex. Mr. Massey's conviction was based on a cross-racial identification, with the perpetrator's hairstyle – corn rows, with five or so braids hanging down in the back – as the single distinguishing feature. The Clinic proved that Mr. Massey had never had hair long enough for braids of any kind, and, in the end, the State agreed and moved to have Mr. Massey's conviction overturned.

**Noe Moreno (Mecklenburg County):** Mr. Moreno's conviction was overturned in August 2012, after he served six years of a 22-year sentence for 2d degree murder and related charges. The Clinic proved that the police misidentified Mr. Moreno as the driver of the car that crashed, killing a passenger. In the end, the State agreed that the wrong person had been charged and Mr. Moreno was wrongly convicted.

**Michael Parker (Henderson County):** Mr. Parker's conviction was overturned in August 2014, after he served 22 years for multiple counts of child sexual abuse. Mr. Parker and a number of other adults in his area were accused of engaging in group, ritualistic abuse of Mr. Parker's children. Mr. Parker was tried first and was convicted on nearly all counts, receiving sentences that would have kept him in prison for life. After Mr. Parker's conviction, his aging and ill mother confessed to a severely reduced charge to avoid prison, and the other adults were never tried (and the charges were dropped). The allegations arose during the period of near-hysteria about ritualistic abuse in the United States and beyond. Working with an outside lawyer, the Clinic proved that the allegations were false and the product of now-discredited medical evidence and child interviewing techniques.

**Scott Pierpoint (Madison County):** Mr. Pierpoint's conviction was overturned in July 2010, after he served 17 years on a charge of child sexual abuse. The Clinic proved that the child who made the allegation recanted shortly afterward, admitting that he lied, and had since continued to try to undo the resulting tragic result. The Clinic also proved that Mr. Pierpoint's defense lawyer had multiple, serious conflicts of interest that resulted in ineffective representation. In the end, the State agreed with the Clinic's claims and supported Mr. Pierpoint's release.

### Selected Active Cases of Innocence

*Other than those listed here, the Clinic has approximately 10 additional active cases, ranging from being under review to being actively litigated in court.*

**Charles Ray Finch (Wilson County):** A jury convicted Mr. Finch of murder in 1976, resulting in a mandatory death sentence. The U.S. Supreme Court subsequently found the mandatory sentence unconstitutional, and Mr. Finch's sentence was reduced to life in prison. The only remaining evidence against Mr. Finch is an unreliable cross-racial identification. Mr. Finch is African American and the eyewitness was white. The U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit in Richmond is deciding whether to review the case. Currently 41 years in prison.

**Ronnie Wallace Long (Cabarrus County):** Mr. Long was convicted of first degree rape and burglary in 1976, after which he was sentenced to life in prison. The only evidence against Mr. Long was a cross-racial identification made by the victim nearly two weeks after the assault. New evidence was discovered in Mr. Long's case showing that, early on, law enforcement could not connect Mr. Long to the crime through the physical evidence they collected at the scene. Mr. Long did not have this information at trial. Currently 41 years in prison.

**Derrick McRae (Richmond County):** Mr. McRae was convicted of murder in 1998 when he was still a teenager. His conviction rested only on the testimony of two men who received favorable treatment in their own cases after testifying. His trial counsel did not receive most of the State's investigative records, and four months of these records are now missing. Last September, the Clinic represented Mr. McRae at a resentencing hearing and his sentence was modified to life with the possibility of parole from life without the possibility. The Clinic's efforts to fully exonerate Mr. McRae continue. Currently 20 years in prison.

**Montoyae Dontae Sharpe (Pitt County):** Mr. Sharpe was convicted of murder in July 1995. The State's key witness against Mr. Sharpe was a troubled teenager who recanted her testimony shortly after trial. The NC NAACP has been actively involved in separately advocating for Mr. Sharpe's release for the past two years. Currently 22 years in prison.

### Clients Who Obtained Release but Clinic Still Fighting

**Lamont McKoy (Cumberland County):** Mr. McKoy was convicted of murder in 1991. After his conviction, evidence obtained by a federal joint crimes task force established Mr. McKoy's innocence. The federal prosecutors in a separate case argued that a different person, not Mr. McKoy, committed the murder in a different part of town. Mr. McKoy was released on parole in December 2017, but the Clinic's efforts to fully exonerate Mr. McKoy continue, and his case is currently pending in federal court. 26 years in prison.

**Kalvin Michael Smith (Forsyth County):** Mr. Smith was convicted in 1997 of the serious assault of a store clerk in Winston-Salem. Mr. Smith is African-American, but the police focused on a white suspect for the first six months of their investigation, switching to Mr. Smith only after the suspect relocated to Charlotte, NC. Mr. Smith served nearly 19 years in prison before being released in 2016 based on a sentence modification, not innocence. The Clinic's efforts to fully exonerate Mr. Smith continue, and the NC NAACP is separately advocating for justice for Mr. Smith. 19 years in prison.

**Damen Vega (Guilford County):** Mr. Vega was paroled in December 2015, after he served 26 years for the murder of a neighbor and related charges. The Clinic believes Mr. Vega is innocent, but its effort to prove that have been hindered by the loss of the police file in the case and the general passage of time. In addition to its court efforts, the Clinic met with the Parole Commission on Mr. Vega's behalf, and he was later granted a Mutual Agreement Parole Plan. Mr. Vega successfully completed all of the steps and was granted parole. 26 years in prison.

# OUR EMCEE FOR THE EVENING



**Mrs. Valonda Caloway**

VALONDA CALOWAY, Freelance Journalist, Professional Host and MC

Valonda Calloway is a native of Richlands, in eastern North Carolina and graduated cum laude from Winston-Salem State University.

She began her career in media as a writer and reporter at the Voice of America radio in Washington, D.C. covering the Africa and Eurasia desks. Valonda was also a correspondent in VOA's Miami bureau reporting on stories including immigration, the drug trade and the World Cup. Valonda returned to North Carolina as a news reporter and anchor for WNCT in Greenville. She was part of the team that won numerous awards, including the prestigious Edward R. Murrow for continuous coverage during Hurricane Floyd.

Valonda arrived in Raleigh as a reporter for WRAL-TV and after just two years was promoted to morning anchor. She interviewed everyone from President Obama to First-Lady Laura Bush to American-Idol runner up Clay Aiken. At WRAL, Valonda put her dance background to use and interviewed and danced with the stars of the Broadway classic "Chicago" and she put on a harness and flew with the star of "Peter Pan."

When WNCN launched the lifestyle show My Carolina Today, creators called on Valonda to host. Not only did she host the show, Valonda was also a content creator. She produced, booked, and prepped guests to be interviewed. At My Carolina Today, Valonda interviewed and danced with The Rockettes, Cirque Du Soleil and the cast of A Chorus Line. She also interviewed a number of stars including Marlon Wayans, Jayne Seymour and Anthony Anderson.

A dancer and cheerleader since her early years, Valonda cheered in college and professionally for the Washington Redskins. Whether serving on the PTA, mentoring girls, or giving her time at a local food pantry, Valonda embraces the verse, "To whom much is given, much is required." In 2013, Winston-Salem State University honored Valonda with induction into the first 40 under 40 club and in 2015, WSSU gave Valonda its highest recognition, induction into the Hall of Fame.

These days, Valonda is putting many of her skills to use as a freelance host, reporter, actor, model, dance teacher and emcee with her husband's DJ company.

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**Worship Service: Sunday - 10:00 a.m.**

**Bible Study: Wednesday - 7:00 p.m.**

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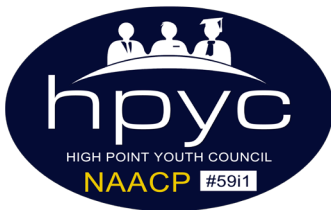


## Lift Ev'ry Voice and Sing

Lift ev'ry voice and sing,  
'Til earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the list'ning skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has  
taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has  
brought us;  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun,  
Let us march on 'til victory is won.  
Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears has been  
watered,  
We have come, treading our path through the blood  
of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
'Til now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who has by Thy might  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, our God, where  
we met Thee,  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we  
forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand,  
True to our God,  
True to our native land.

# THANK YOU

Wishing a successful  
2018 Winter Session to  
the NC NAACP State Conference



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