

LOCKE LORD DIVERSITY AWARENESS

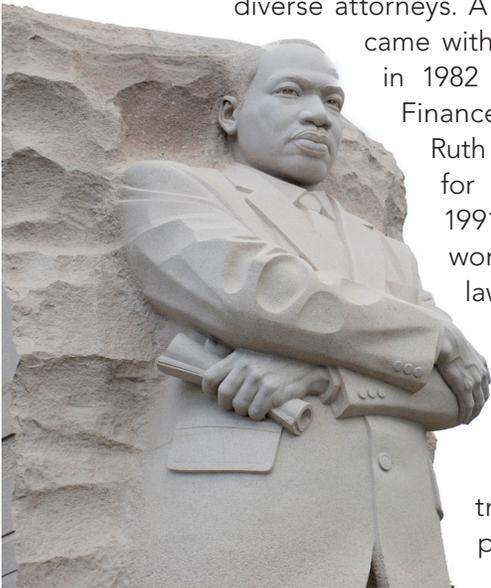
January 2020: Honoring Martin Luther King Jr.

Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. is remembered as a pioneering civil rights leader and advocate of non-violence. Legislation signed in 1983 marked the birthday of Dr. King as a federal holiday. In 1994, Congress designated the holiday as a national day of service and charged the Corporation for National and Community Service with leading this effort. Each year, on the third Monday in January, the MLK Day of Service is observed as a "day on, not a day off." The MLK Day of Service was established to transform Dr. King's life and teachings into action to help solve social problems by empowering individuals to work together to strengthen communities for everyone. We all have a role in ensuring that his legacy continues.

Locke Lord has a long and proud history of attorneys championing for the civil rights of marginalized and oppressed communities. Moorfield Storey, a founding member of the Firm's legacy Boston office, became the NAACP's first president in 1910, serving in this role until his death in 1929. He proudly argued three important cases protecting the rights of black citizens: *Guinn v. United States*, *Buchanan v. Warley* and *Moore v. Dempsey*.

In the spirit of the legacy of Dr. King, Locke Lord is also committed to its long-standing belief in the value and necessity of hiring and promoting diverse attorneys. A shining example of such talent

came with the hiring of Ruth Ellen Fitch in 1982 as part of the Firm's Public Finance Practice Group in Boston. Ruth Ellen showed a propensity for leadership early on and, in 1991, became the first black woman partner at a large Boston law firm. After a dedicated 20 years of exceptional service with the Firm, Ruth Ellen became CEO of The Dimock Center, a community center housing a rehabilitation clinic, traditional housing, Head Start programs and AIDS care.



The late Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was born on January 15, 1929, in Atlanta. This year, he would have celebrated his 91st birthday. A testament to his profound impact, Dr. King is the only American besides George Washington whose birthday is celebrated as a national holiday, with schools, banks and federal offices closing in remembrance of his life and legacy.

Promising even in his youth, Dr. King skipped multiple grades, enrolled at Morehouse College at age 15 and was ordained by age 19. In addition to 18 honorary degrees he later received, Dr. King earned two bachelor's degrees (sociology from Morehouse College and divinity from The Crozer Theological Seminary) and a doctorate of philosophy from Boston University by 1955 at just 26 years of age. In 1964, Dr. King became the youngest Nobel Peace Prize winner at the time and remains the youngest male to ever receive this award.



The heart of Locke Lord lies within our people and the many different experiences and perspectives we share. We recognize, embrace and celebrate our differences and believe we can only provide our clients with the best possible representation if we reflect the diversity of the clients and communities we serve.

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