

LOCKE LORD DIVERSITY AWARENESS

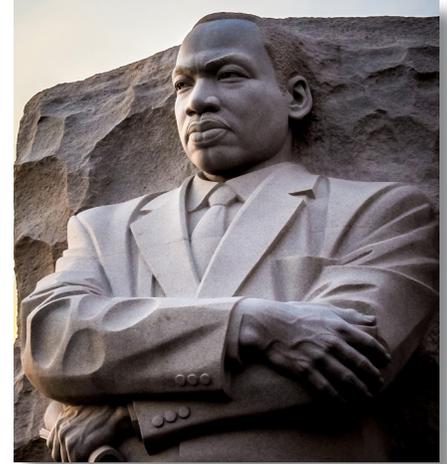
January 2016: **Martin Luther King Day**

Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, celebrated on the third Monday of January, celebrates the life and legacy of the pioneering civil rights leader and advocate of non-violence. Many lawyers have made significant contributions to this movement. This year, we chose to highlight the achievements of women lawyers in the civil rights movement.



Constance Baker Motley became the first African American woman federal judge when in 1966 President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed her to the United States District Court for the Southern District of New York. Baker graduated from Columbia Law School in 1946 and was hired by the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund as a civil rights lawyer. As the fund's first female attorney, she became

Associate Counsel making her a lead trial attorney in a number of significant civil rights cases. In 1950, she wrote the original complaint for *Brown v. Board of Education*. Baker was the first African American woman to argue (and win!) a case before the US Supreme Court, in *Meredith v. Fair*, in which she successfully argued that James Meredith should be admitted to the University of Mississippi. As a District Court judge, Baker handed down a breakthrough decision for women in sports broadcasting when, in 1978, she ruled that a female reporter must be allowed into a Major League Baseball locker room.



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Ruby Hurley was a leader in the civil rights movement. She attended the Robert H. Terrell Law School. Instead of practicing law, Hurley worked at the Industrial Bank of Washington, a black-owned institution. Her introduction to civil rights activism began when she helped organize Marion Anderson's concert at the Lincoln Memorial after Anderson was barred from performing at the D.A.R.'s Constitution Hall. In 1951, Hurley moved to Birmingham, Alabama to set up an NAACP office, the first permanent NAACP office located in the Deep South, and became its Regional Secretary. Hurley assisted in all of the major school desegregation cases of the period and joined with civil rights activists Amzie Moore and Medgar Evers in investigating the murders of George W. Lee and Emmitt Till.



Anna Pauline (Pauli) Murray was a groundbreaking legal scholar, lifelong activist for civil rights and women's rights and, in her later years, the first African American woman ordained as an Episcopal priest. Murray became involved in the civil rights movement when, in 1938, she began a campaign to enter the all-white University of North Carolina. After graduating from Howard University in 1944, Murray wanted to enroll at Harvard University to study law. She was awarded the prestigious Rosenwald Fellowship but Harvard rejected her because of her gender. Murray went to the University of California Boalt School of Law where she received her law degree. In 1950, Murray published a legal study of the segregation laws in the United States titled *States' Law on Race and Color*. In it she argued that civil rights lawyers should stop taking a gradual approach to changing segregation and should instead argue that segregation itself violated the US Constitution. Thurgood Marshall described this book as the "bible" of the civil rights movement. Murray also was a co-founder of the National Organization for Women in 1966.

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