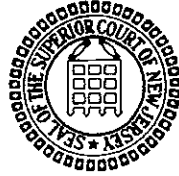


SUPERIOR COURT OF NEW JERSEY

CHAMBERS OF
LAWRENCE M. LAWSON
ASSIGNMENT JUDGE



MONMOUTH COUNTY COURT HOUSE
71 MONUMENT PARK
FREEHOLD, NEW JERSEY 07728-1266
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For immediate release: Feb. 11, 2013

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Monmouth Vicinage Joins the Community to Observe Black History Month

The Monmouth Vicinage will hold a Black History Month program on Friday, Feb. 15 from noon to 2 p.m. in the jury assembly room of the Monmouth County Courthouse, 71 Monument Park, Freehold. The event, entitled "Perseverance through the Storm: The Road to Freedom," will focus on the civil rights movement and the history of African-Americans in Monmouth County.

Assignment Judge Lawrence M. Lawson will extend opening remarks. The program will feature keynote speaker Dr. Walter David Greason, a native of Freehold and a distinguished scholar and historian on the African-American experience. Dr. Greason is a visiting professor at Monmouth University and the author of "Suburban Erasure: How the Suburbs Ended the Civil Rights Movement in New Jersey" and "The Path to Freedom: Black Families in New Jersey."

A dramatization of the life of Medgar Evers will be given by attorney Joseph M. Champagne Jr., mayor of South Toms River and a member of the vicinage Committee on Minority Concerns. A "Ring of the School Bell" ceremony will be performed by Lillie Hendry, president of the Board of Trustees of the Court Street School, followed by remarks from former student Norma Randolph. The Court Street School is an historical landmark and one of the principal structures associated with the segregated history of early 20th century education for African Americans.

Music will be performed by the Jazz Arts Academy All Stars, Count Basie Theatre. Cultural dance performances will include a mime dance by G.I.F.T (Gentlemen Inspired with Faithful Talent), Second Baptist Church of Long Branch, a routine by the Howell High School Lady Steppers and performances by students of the Shoreline Dance Academy in Ocean Grove. Vicinage employee Tarika Jean-Pierre will sing the national African-American anthem, "Lift Every Voice and Sing." Cultural artifacts and pictures of local historical sites will be on display.

Judge Lawson will present a recognition award to David Brown, an 11th grade student at Long Branch High School for his poem, "The Road to Freedom." Approximately 100 students from throughout Monmouth County are expected to attend.

Noting the strong community participation in the program, Judge Thomas F. Scully, chairperson of the EEO/AA Advisory Committee said, "The Monmouth Vicinage looks forward to strengthening our bond with the community as we come together to uphold an important American tradition and honor the challenges and triumphs of African Americans."

Sponsored by the Monmouth Vicinage EEO/AA Advisory Committee and the Monmouth Vicinage Advisory Committee on Minority Concerns, the program is free and open to the public.

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