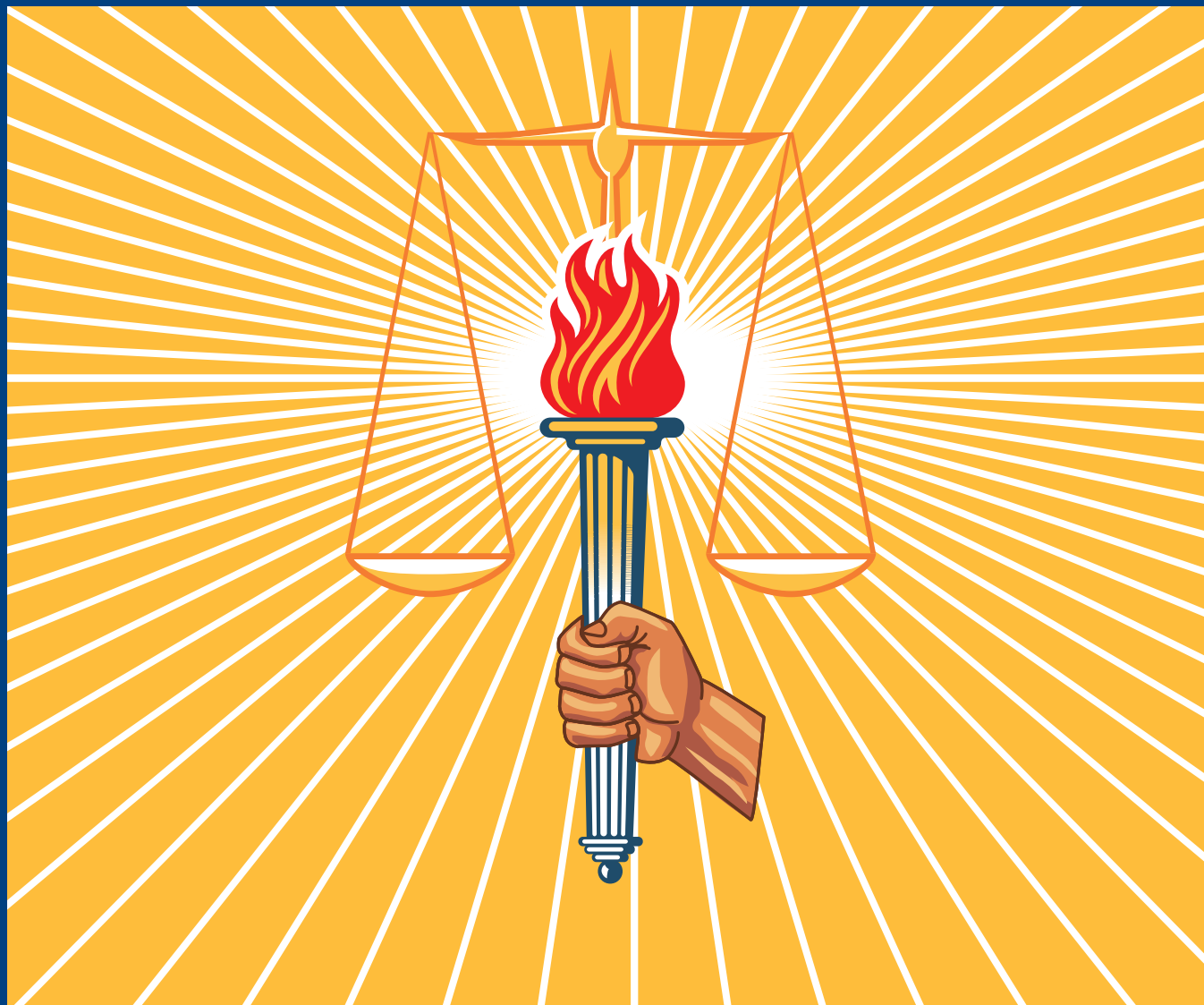


CARRY THE TORCH

Continuing Morgan's Legacy of Civil Rights and Equal Justice



Presented by

THE ROBERT M. BELL CENTER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION

Earl S. Richardson Library

November 9, 2011

9:00 a.m.—4:00 p.m.

University Student Center Theater

Morgan State University

Baltimore, Maryland 21251 • www.morgan.edu

THE ROBERT M. BELL CENTER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION

The Robert M. Bell Center for Civil Rights in Education at Morgan State University unites research, teaching, training and advocacy on integral civil rights issues in education at the pre-kindergarten, elementary, secondary and postsecondary levels.

Its mission and purposes are national in scope, providing critical leadership, resources and focus to the relevant educational issues at home and in communities throughout the nation. The Center is established for the identification and study of current issues and challenges related to equal educational opportunity, particularly with respect

to low-income African-American and other minority students seeking real and meaningful opportunities for educational excellence and advancement. Its purpose is to develop and promote substantive research and collaboration of research, strategies, remedies, solutions, programs, public policy initiatives and appropriate advocacy necessary to overcome obstacles to educational achievement, eliminate continuing policies or practices that foster discrimination or perpetuate segregated conditions in education, and enhance educational opportunity for all students regardless of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, or background.

THE HONORABLE ROBERT M. BELL



KEYNOTE SPEAKER

THE HONORABLE ROBERT M. BELL was born in Rocky Mount, North Carolina. His parents soon moved to Baltimore, Maryland, where he attended Dunbar High School. On June 17, 1960, Bell had his first experiences with the judicial system. While still in high school, he and a group of other students participated in a sit-in

protest at a segregated restaurant. The group entered Hooper's Restaurant, located at Charles and Fayette Streets in downtown Baltimore, and waited to be served. They were asked to leave, but twelve of the students, including the sixteen-year-old Bell, refused. He and the other students were arrested, convicted in the Circuit Court of Baltimore City of criminal trespassing and fined \$10. The case was appealed to the Maryland Court of Appeals, where the students' representation included Juanita Jackson Mitchell and Thurgood Marshall. The appellants argued that the use of the state's trespassing laws to support segregation of public accommodations violated the Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution. In 1962, the Court of Appeals upheld the decision of the circuit court.

The case was then appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court, where Bell was represented by Constance Baker Motley and Jack Greenberg. In the 1964 case of *Bell v. Maryland*, the U.S. Supreme Court, noting that in the period since the conviction, the Maryland General Assembly had passed a public accommodations law, refused to rule whether the state's trespassing laws could be used to exclude blacks from public accommodations, but vacated the decision and remanded the case to allow the state court to rule whether the conviction should be reversed due to the change in state law. On April 9, 1965, Bell's conviction was reversed by the state Court of Appeals, and all of the students were cleared of all charges.

Ironically, after the Supreme Court's decision, Congress passed the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which banned racial discrimination in public accommodations such as those provided in Hooper's Baltimore restaurant. It has been suggested that the Supreme Court refrained from reaching the merits in the case in consideration of this civil rights legislation, which was then pending in Congress, as had it done so it would have eliminated the basis for passing the Act.

Bell later attended and graduated with a B.A. in history from what was then Morgan State College in Baltimore in 1966 and while there became a brother in Alpha Phi Omega. He then was admitted to Harvard Law School, where he earned his J.D. in 1969. That same year, he was admitted to the bar and began his legal practice in Baltimore.

In 1975, Bell was appointed to the District Court of Maryland, District 1, in Baltimore City and served there until 1980. He was an Associate Judge, Baltimore City Circuit Court, 8th Judicial Circuit, from 1980 to 1984, when he was appointed to the Maryland Court of Special Appeals. Seven years later he was appointed to the state's highest court and became the chief justice in 1996. He was a member of the Court of Appeals Standing Committee on Rules of Practice and Procedure from 1977 to 1982; the Commission to Revise the Annotated Code of Maryland, 1980–82; and the Board of Directors, Judicial Institute of Maryland, 1982–84. In August 2006, Bell was named Chair of the National Center for State Courts' Board of Directors. At the same time, Judge Bell also was named president of the Conference of Chief Justices.

Bell has also been the recipient of numerous awards, among them: the American Bar Association D'Alemberte-Raven Award for Outstanding Leadership in Alternative Dispute Resolution; the Legal Excellence Award for Advancement of Public Service Responsibility from the Maryland Bar Foundation; the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence Special Recognition Award; the Maryland Leadership in Law Award; and the Maryland Legal Services Corporation Medal for Access to Justice.

CARRY THE TORCH

Continuing Morgan's Legacy of Civil Rights and Equal Justice

November 9, 2011

9:00 a.m.–4:00 p.m.

A Special Event for Morgan Students and Alumni

Presented by

THE ROBERT M. BELL CENTER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION
MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

Convened for the Purpose of Honoring the Morgan State University Alumni Who, as Student Activists, Initiated the Civil Disobedience of the 1950s and 1960s through Organized Sit-Ins and Other Civil Rights Demonstrations at Local Lunch Counters, Theaters and Department Stores, to Protest and Dismantle Racial Segregation in Public Accommodations; to Unveil a Permanent Civil Rights Exhibit in the University Student Center Documenting the Activities of These Courageous Students; and to Empower the Next Generation of Students and Alumni Who Must Now Carry the Torch and Continue the Legacy of Civil Rights and Equal Justice in the Face of Today's Challenges

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 9

SESSION I: *The Voices of Our Forebearers*, 9:00 a.m.–10:45 a.m., University Student Center Theater

This panel discussion will articulate the viewpoints and experiences of representatives of Morgan alumni who participated in organized sit-ins and civil rights demonstrations in the 1950s and 1960s. They will discuss their direct response to the civil rights challenges they faced as students and their valiant efforts to dismantle segregation in public accommodations and overcome the pernicious racial discrimination and segregation that prevailed under Jim Crow and other discriminatory policies and practices.

Moderator: Professor Larry S. Gibson, University of Maryland School of Law

Panelists: Mary Elaine Blackwell, Walter R. Dean, Jr., Wilhelmina Dolores Goff, Clarence Logan, Julia Davidson Randall

BREAK

SESSION II: **Keynote Address**, *Civil Rights and Equal Justice Under Law*, 11:00 a.m.–12:15 p.m., University Student Center Theater
Chief Judge Robert M. Bell, Maryland Court of Appeals

Judge Bell, a revered Morgan graduate, is the highest-ranking judicial officer in the State of Maryland and the Chief Judge of the State's highest court. Reared in Baltimore, he attended Dunbar High School where, in 1960, he and twelve other students entered a downtown restaurant, were refused service and were subsequently arrested and convicted of trespassing. As a result, the landmark civil rights case *Bell v. Maryland* was eventually argued before the United States Supreme Court. He and the students prevailed, helping bring an end to *de facto* racial segregation in Maryland. Judge Bell continued his civil rights activism and advocacy at Morgan State College, graduating in 1966. He received his J.D. from Harvard University Law School in 1969 and commenced his distinguished career as a lawyer and judge.

LUNCH BREAK

SESSION III: *The Voices Who Now Carry the Torch and Continue the Legacy in a Rising Generation*, 2:00 p.m.–4:00 p.m., University Student Center Theater

This panel discussion will represent the viewpoints, strategies and actions of current students, recent alumni and young advocates and activists who are rising up to challenge and overcome the continuing and contemporary civil rights issues that we now face, including equal educational opportunity; employment and labor practices; voting rights and political empowerment; racial profiling; the criminal justice system; and the necessity of building multi-ethnic coalitions to fight and win the battles for civil rights and equal and justice.

Moderator: Pace J. McConkie, Director, Robert M. Bell Center for Civil Rights in Education

Panelists: Raiana Davis, Antonio Holloman, Stanton Johnson, Zenia Wilson

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 10

FOUNDERS DAY CONVOCATION, 11:00 a.m., Gilliam Concert Hall, Murphy Fine Arts Center

Keynote Address: Congressman John Lewis of Georgia

CIVIL RIGHTS EXHIBITION UNVEILING
1:00 p.m., University Student Center

RECEPTION (to follow)

THE ROBERT M. BELL CENTER FOR CIVIL RIGHTS IN EDUCATION

Pace J. McConkie, Director

The Robert M. Bell Center for Civil Rights in Education, established at Morgan State University, unites research, teaching, training and advocacy on integral civil rights issues in education at the pre-kindergarten, elementary, secondary and postsecondary levels. It is instituted for the identification and study of current issues and challenges related to equal educational opportunity, particularly with respect to low-income African American and other minority students seeking real and meaningful opportunities for educational excellence and advancement.

The Center convenes the needed intellectual capacity by bringing together academia, the legal profession, advocacy groups, policymakers, civic and community leaders and organizations, and students to develop and promote substantive research and collaboration of research, strategies, remedies, solutions, programs, public policy initiatives and appropriate legal and community-based advocacy necessary to overcome obstacles to educational achievement, eliminate continuing policies or practices that foster discrimination or perpetuate segregated conditions in education, and enhance educational opportunity for all students regardless of race, ethnicity or background. Its mission and purposes are national in scope, providing critical leadership, resources and focus to the relevant educational issues at home and in communities throughout the nation.