

Thurgood Marshall's Centennial, July 2, 2008

*John Q. Barrett**

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On June 13, 1967, President Lyndon B. Johnson nominated Thurgood Marshall, the Solicitor General of the United States, to serve as an Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.

At that time, Thurgood Marshall, age 58, was a former United States Circuit Judge (1961-65) and a former NAACP lawyer. For more than twenty years, he had served as Director-Counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund, Inc., leading its courtroom attacks on the constitutionality of racial segregation by law. In the Supreme Court, Marshall and his colleagues won *Brown v. Board of Education* in 1954 and many other triumphs of law and human rights. By the time of his 1967 nomination to the Court, Marshall had long been *the* civil rights champion of the United States.

In August 1967, Thurgood Marshall was confirmed by the Senate and received his judicial commission, becoming the first African American to serve on the Supreme Court. Justice Marshall was in active service on the Court for twenty-four years, and he was in senior service until his death on January 24, 1993. ([Click here](#) for his portrait and more biographical information).

July 2, 2008, the centennial of Thurgood Marshall's birth, will be noted widely and observed in various ways. I hope that the date will become part of a season and a movement to remember and study Marshall's great life, accomplishments, values and vision.

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For a selected archive of Jackson List posts, see my homepage at www.law.stjohns.edu. To subscribe to the Jackson List, which does not display recipient identities or distribute their email addresses, send a note to barrettj@stjohns.edu.

THURGOOD MARSHALL'S CENTENNIAL

In the Marshall centennial moment, in this Marshall nation, some of the following might be of immediate interest:

- in New York City, actor Laurence Fishburne is performing in an acclaimed one-man Broadway play, *Thurgood*, at the Booth Theatre—[click here](#) for information.
- Historian and law professor Mary Dudziak's new book, *EXPORTING AMERICAN DREAMS: THURGOOD MARSHALL'S AFRICAN JOURNEY*, tells for the first time the story of Marshall's 1960 journey to Kenya to help independence leaders forge justice through law by writing a constitution for their new nation. For more information and to order copies, [click here](#).
- To read Mary Dudziak's article, *Thurgood Marshall's Bill of Rights for Kenya*, in the current issue of *THE GREEN BAG*, [click here](#).
- On Tuesday, July 1, 2008, Mrs. Cecelia Marshall will be the honored guest at the Robert H. Jackson Center's annual Jackson Society dinner at the Jackson Center in Jamestown, New York. For event information, [click here](#).
- On that evening, I will speak to the Jackson Society about Robert Jackson and Thurgood Marshall. For my earlier Jackson List post, *Thurgood Marshall in the Supreme Court*, [click here](#).
- On Wednesday, July 2, 2008, Justice Marshall's 100th birthday, Ambassador Andrew Young will deliver Chautauqua Institution's 10:45 a.m. lecture—for information, [click here](#).
- On July 2, Ambassador Young will be speaking in the historic Chautauqua Institution Amphitheater where NAACP attorney Thurgood Marshall lectured on August 6, 1957—see the photograph that follows.

