

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Buffalo Lawyers and Community Partners Will Celebrate the 70th Anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*, the Historic 1954 U.S. Supreme Court Case Holding State Sanctioned School Segregation Unconstitutional

April 25, 2024 – A coalition of organizations has come together to present *Brown v. Board in Buffalo: A 70th Anniversary Celebration* at the Historic DeLaine Waring AME Church, on Friday May 17, 2024, from 2:00pm to 6:00pm. This celebratory community event will highlight the historical connection between the Brown decision and the DeLaine Waring Church on Swan Street. The DeLaine Waring congregation will host the program featuring civil rights scholars, church leaders and the Chief Administrative Judge of the 8th Judicial District. Pastor Earl Perrin, Jr., of DeLaine Waring AME Church, “welcomes all and encourages Buffalonians to come out and learn more about his church’s important connection to one of the most impactful civil rights cases of the 20th Century, including his congregants sharing their lived experiences in nonintegrated schools prior to Brown.”

The Speakers include the Hon. Kevin M. Carter, Administrative Judge, New York State Unified Court System Eighth Judicial District; Joseph A. DeLaine, Jr.; Professor Roy I. Jones, Ed.D., Clemson University; Pastor Earl Perrin, Jr., DeLaine Waring AME Church, and Richard T. Sullivan, Esq., Author, Buffalo’s Monument to Civil Rights.

Minority Bar Association of Western New York President Ifeoluwa Popoola describes the upcoming event as “inspirational and timely, bringing into sharp focus how the United States Supreme Court and resolute activists advanced civil rights.”

The Bar Association of Erie County’s President Timothy J. Graber states that “the BAEC could not be more pleased to collaborate with the Minority Bar Association of Western New York, the Court, and community to meaningfully celebrate the landmark decision and anniversary.”

About Buffalo, the Church & *Brown v. Board of Education*

The DeLaine Waring AME Church in Larkintown is named after the Rev. J.A. DeLaine, a Black educator, parent, minister, civil rights advocate and plaintiff in the Briggs v. Elliott case, a companion case that was litigated with Brown. Court. The Church is also named after Judge J. Waties Waring, a white federal judge who helped push for the US Supreme Court to address school segregation.

The Rev. DeLaine’s son, Joseph A. DeLaine, Jr., and Dr. Roy I. Jones, professor of education at Clemson University, will speak about the history of the civil rights cases Briggs v. Elliott and Brown v. Board, and the church itself. They will be joined by Hon. Kevin M. Carter, Administrative Judge for New York State’s

Eight Judicial District, Rev. Earl Perrin of DeLaine Waring AME Church, and attorney Richard T. Sullivan, author of the paper Buffalo's Monument to Civil Rights.

Program highlights

The program will also include musical performances by Vibrant Strings, free food from Sylver's Place, and will feature a minority-owned business vendors fair. This program is free and open to the public; all are welcome, but registration is requested. Minority business vendor fair 2-6pm; educational program from 3-5pm; free food served 5-6pm.

Program details

Date: Friday, May 17, 2024

Time: 2-6pm

Location: DeLaine Waring AME Church, 680 Swan Street, Buffalo, NY 14210

Parking: Free parking available in the lots adjacent to the church.

A livestream of the educational program from 3-5pm will be available on the DeLaine Waring AME Church's YouTube page for those who cannot attend in person.

Registration information

To register, please visit bit.ly/bvbinbflo. This program is free and open to the public. Minority-owned businesses may register as vendors for free until May 1st at bit.ly/bvbvendors. Diversity, Inclusion and Elimination of Bias Continuing Legal Education credits are available for New York State attorneys at no charge.

Presented by

The Bar Association of Erie County, DeLaine Waring AME Church, the Minority Bar Association, New York State Unified Court System Eighth Judicial District, Say Yes Buffalo, and the UB Law Alumni Association's Social Justice and Racial Equity Committee.

Sponsors

This program is generously sponsored by Denine Jackson Interiors, Hodgson Russ LLP, Connors LLP, The Coppola Firm, Gibson, McAskill & Crosby LLP, Lippes Mathias LLP, Lipsitz Green Scime Cambria LLP, National Fuel, and Salcedo Appeals.

ABOUT THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF ERIE COUNTY

The Bar Association of Erie County ("BAEC" or "Association"), a not-for-profit professional association, was founded in 1887. The Association serves its members by educating, pursuing justice, and fostering camaraderie, well-being, and belonging. The Association is a trusted voice and partner in the community, advocates for professional well-being and inclusion, and provides lawyers with the skills and tools to achieve excellence in the practice of law and pursuit of justice.

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