

RCJ Prepared Remarks--WBA Remarks (HOF) 6-3-2014

Well, isn't this wonderful. WBA Hall of Fame. I tell you, it cannot get much better than this. I am joining the likes of my former law-firm boss Allen Eaton (2003), who was a principal at a firm known at that the time, as Hudson Leftwich and Eaton. I am joining my former law partner Willie Leftwich (2004), of the famed former D.C. law firm Hudson, Leftwich and Davenport I am joining other former colleagues at the Hudson Leftwich and Davenport firm, namely Bruce Fredrickson (2012) and past WBA Presidents Michael Hicks (2008), Wendell Webster (2012). Can I boost a bit? I believe that Hudson, Leftwich and Davenport is the only law firm in the modern era of the WBA that ever had as many as three of its former attorneys to become presidents of the WBA. When I refer to the "modern era" of the WBA, I am referring to the time I started with the WBA, in the mid-1970's to the present.

Finally, I am joining my former law firm partner Charles Ogletree (2010), from the firm Jessamy Fort Ogletree and Botts. (He is also a recipient of the WBA's Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit.)

To be inducted in a class that has the HONORABLE Eric T. Washington, Chief Judge of the DC Court of Appeals as one of its inductees is a real treat. As many as you know, Judge Washington was recently appointed to serve, what I believe to be, an unprecedented third term as chief judge of our highest court.

And my good friend, Donald Temple. Donald is quite the lawyer around town. He is a force of nature and a dedicated and passionate lawyer for the causes he undertakes. He runs a magnificent program in this city, name for the fame civil rights lawyer and one of WBA's founders, Charles Hamilton Houston. Training young students on the 'ins and outs' of a legal

education and teaching them how to navigate their way through law school. It is a wonderful program. It has been in existence for over 35 years. You know, if they had something like that when I was coming along, I may have been a good student. Donald, keep on doing what you are doing for the benefit of the students and for the good of our beloved community.

I want to thank my good friend Robert Bell for nominating me for this high honor. If any you know Robert, or have heard of him, you know that he is a well-respected attorney in the District, a tireless worker on behalf of the Washington Bar Association, and I tell you, a true follower and teacher of what we call 'Houstonian Jurisprudence'. He is a member of the WBA Hall of Fame as well (2011).

You know if you are going to receive an honor of this nature, why not receive it during the presidency of a Washington, DC Super Lawyer. President Billy Martin! It is a great honor to be inducted into the Hall of Fame when Billy Martin is the president of the organization. So, I want to say thank you to Billy, and the other 2014 Hall of Fame committee members, DC Superior Court Magistrate Judge Errol Arthur and Chair of the Washington Bar Association Young Lawyers Division, Darian Denman, for this high honor.

Now, if most of you who have been to other programs when I have had the microphone, you will know that I always say that "I believe in programs beginning and ending on the same day." So, I am going to close out my remarks now. But, before I do, let me acknowledge some people who are here. First, I acknowledge all of you present, even those of you who may not have come especially to show support for me. Then let me acknowledge some of my family members:

My devoted and attentive son, Ron, Jr. Boy, he really looks after me.

My loving and devoted daughter Taylor, who came in from Georgia. She works at a college I never heard of until she got the job. Now, thanks to something that took place during this year's NCAA tournaments, most of the country has heard of Mercer University in Macon, GA.

My older brother, John.

I am also pleased to note the presence of my former law-firm partner, Commissioner Joanne Doddy Fort. Joanne was the managing partner of my prior firm, Jessamy Fort Ogletree & Botts. She is currently a distinguished member of the D.C. Public Service Commission.

Although he was on the program that preceded this induction ceremony, I want to acknowledge D.C. Appeals Court Senior Judge, and Washington Bar Association Hall of Fame member, William C. Pryor (2010). Judge Pryor is a special individual. He is one of the longest serving jurists, if not the longest, in the District of Columbia. Judge Pryor, thank you for your friendship, your service and for all you have come to represent in the annals of judicial history in this town.

There are other judges here who have been recognized previously. One such person is Judge Inez Smith Reid. Judge Reid has been the recipient of the Washington Bar Association's Ollie May Cooper Award, its Charles Hamilton Houston Medallion of Merit and is a member of WBA's Hall of Fame (2003). Now, that is what I call a 'trifecta', if I can borrow that term from horse racing circles. All of the honors that were bestowed upon her by the WBA represent the level of contributions she has made, not only to the WBA, but to the profession and to the community. Judge Reid, thank you for all you have done, and for all you continue to do.

There are so many others I can point out, like my good friend Elaine Jones. Poor Elaine. When I was WBA president, I bent her ear and leaned on her shoulders so much, she must have thought

she was my co-president. Thank you Elaine. She was inducted into the WBA Hall of Fame in (2010). My good friend and retired Judge Alexander Williams, a person with whom I almost went into law practice before he went on to become a history-making politician in Prince George's County, Maryland with many years ago and then a distinguished jurist on the U.S. District Court of Maryland. In the interest of "beginning and ending on the same day" I will stop here. Although I did not call the names of many of my friends who are present, you know who you are and I hope you know how much I value your friendship. Truly, my not having mentioned you by name is in the interest of brevity, not an omission of my mind or my heart.

I am grateful to you all.

Thank you.

