

2009

So Far: 70th Anniversary

North Carolina Central University School of Law

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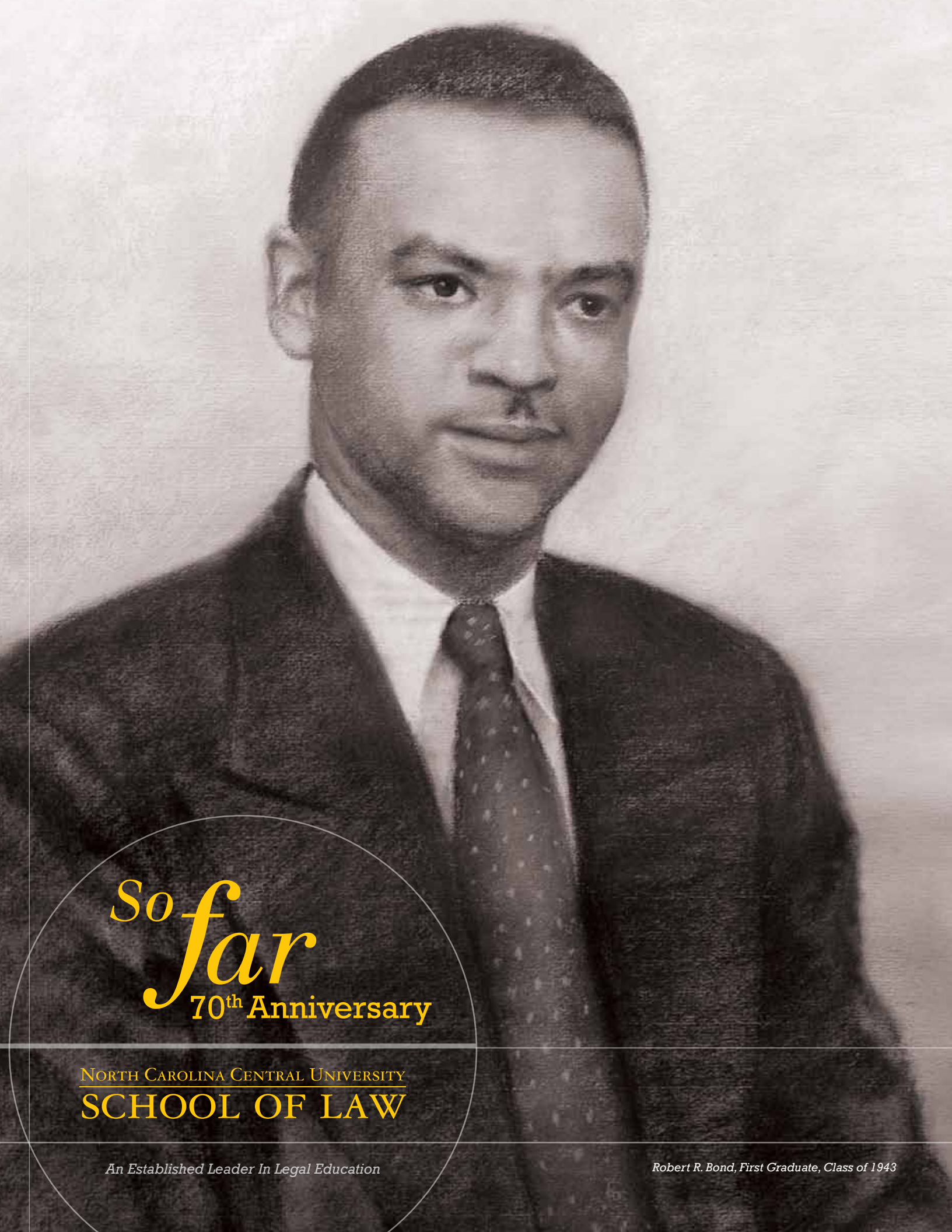


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So far
70th Anniversary

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW

An Established Leader In Legal Education

Robert R. Bond, First Graduate, Class of 1943



“Although N. C. Central University School of Law has had to struggle through some difficult periods in its seventy-year history, the School of Law has emerged as a significant contributor to legal education and the legal profession in North Carolina.”

Sarah Parker
Chief Justice
North Carolina State Supreme Court

“Central’s success is a tribute to its dedicated faculty and to its graduates who have become influential practitioners, successful politicians and respected members of the judiciary in North Carolina.”

Irvin W. Hankins III
Past President
North Carolina State Bar

The NCCU School of Law would like to thank
Michael Williford '83 and Harry C. Brown Sr. '76
for making this publication possible.





- Joyvan Malbon '09

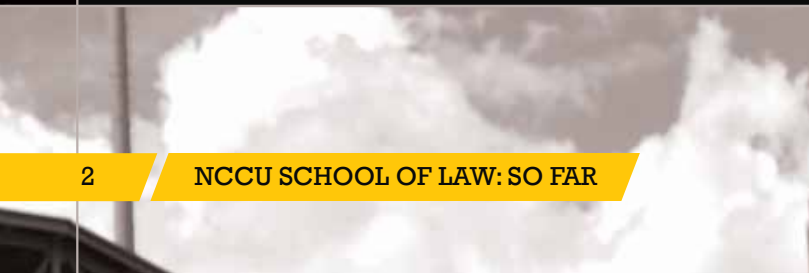
NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW

OUR MISSION

The mission of the North Carolina Central University School of Law is to **provide a challenging and broad-based educational program** designed to **stimulate intellectual inquiry of the highest order**, and to foster in each student a **deep sense of professional responsibility and personal integrity** so as to produce competent and **socially responsible members of the legal profession.**



- Professor James P. Beckwith, Jr.



70TH ANNIVERSARY EDITION
2009

NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
SCHOOL OF LAW

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RAYMOND C. PIERCE

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*Much of the information in this publication
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Dean Janice Mills.*

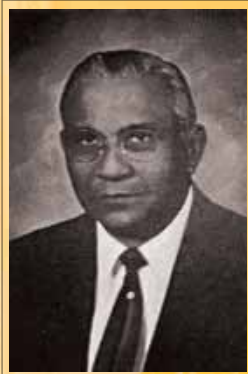
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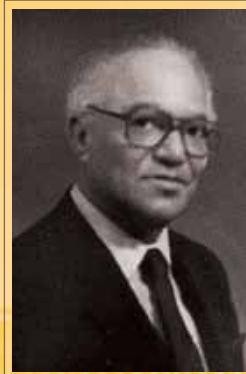
PORTRAITS OF THE DEANS



1939–1942
MAURICE T. VAN
HECKE



1942–1965
ALBERT L.
TURNER



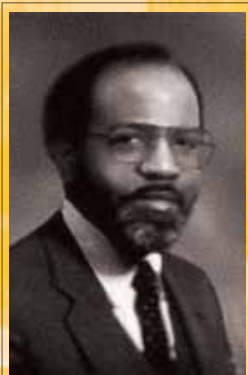
1965–1969
DANIEL G.
SAMPSON



1969–1976
LEMAROUIS
DEJARMON



1976–1981
HARRY E.
GROVES



1981–1985
CHARLES E.
DAYE



1985–1986
THOMAS M.
RINGER (INTERIM)



1986–1990
LOUIS
WESTERFIELD



1990–1994
MARY E.
WRIGHT



1994–1998
PERCY R.
LUNEY, JR.



1998–2005
JANICE L.
MILLS



2005–PRESENT
RAYMOND C.
PIERCE

RAYMOND C. PIERCE

70 YEARS: NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
AN ESTABLISHED LEADER IN LEGAL EDUCATION

Shortly after my arrival in Durham to assume my duties as Dean of the Law School, Iris Gilchrist, manager of donor relations, handed me a copy of a special edition publication commemorating the 60th anniversary of NCCU School of Law. She told me that the magazine would give me some information about the history of the Law School. I was so impressed with the story that was told in that magazine that reading it confirmed even more in my mind how special it was to be the Dean of this great Law School. *"So Far, 60th Anniversary"* is the title of that publication and it details the beginnings of our Law School, its struggles, many milestones and accomplishments. As we now celebrate our 70th anniversary, the important and honorable mission of the Law School becomes quite evident in the chronicling of its history. Providing an opportunity for African-Americans to obtain a legal education, producing attorneys with a purpose to confront legal barriers in civil rights and social justice and growing and expanding the institution to provide affordable and publicly supported legal education opportunities to a larger and more diverse community are all values that form the foundation upon which the Law School has grown and flourished.

I am comforted in my belief that our Law School continues in the strong tradition of its legacy. Exceptionally motivated students with an outstanding faculty, knowledgeable in law, proficient in instruction, and committed to our students are features that have continued to mark the substance of our institution.

I am proud that our institution's strong legacy of the study and practice of law in support of social justice clearly continues as evidenced by the significant high level of student activity in public interest law, pro bono work and law clinic participation. Indeed in recent years, our Law School has remained consistently high in national rankings for both our clinical education and public interest law programs. Our commitment to providing community legal services while at the same time allowing students to receive frontline experience in representing real people with real legal problems, is a hallmark of this Law School. This strong element of service is easily traced to the origins of the institution and the North Carolina Central University motto of "Truth and Service."

We are honored with the realization that after 70 years of existence, a solid base of graduates has emerged with seasoned and well-respected law practices that offer compelling testimony to the stellar caliber of legal education provided by NCCU School of Law. Testimony to the caliber of legal education at our Law School is particularly made evident by the unmatched percentage of our graduates that comprise the judiciary of the state of North Carolina. It was that realization coupled with introductions to so much living legacy that I believe caused Chief Justice John Roberts during his visit to state "this is a special Law School."

Of course there is so much more. Indeed this is a special Law School and what we have accomplished so far is just the beginning. Stay tuned for the next ten years.



RAYMOND C. PIERCE
DEAN



ROBERT BOND '43

THE GENESIS OF NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY'S
SCHOOL OF LAW By Michele Bond Hill



In March of 1939, as North Carolina College for Negroes (now North Carolina Central University) received its charter from the State Legislature to begin a department of law, Hitler and his German army were preparing to invade Poland. As the first student entered this new law program, World War II was in full swing. Can you, for one moment, imagine this time in

history? The world was at war abroad, and in one small school in North Carolina, a young black student began law school alone. How does it compare to today's law student's experience?

Imagine attending law school without the benefit of an established faculty. What would it be like to go through law school without any fellow classmates? There were no study groups to share information and debate ideas. Imagine no law library in which to do research; in fact, there was only a small space set aside in the administration building for this new law program. Can you imagine the isolation and loneliness? That was the experience of Robert Richard Bond, the first graduate of what was to become North Carolina Central University School of Law.

Blazing a new trail is never easy. Bond sometimes went to neighboring segregated law schools to sit at the back of a particular law class without the benefit of participating. Professors from Duke University and the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill would come to NCCU's campus to test Bond's progress and sometimes provide one-on-one instruction. More often than not, he read and studied the law alone. Oftentimes, he went to those other law schools to use their libraries late at night because, as a Negro, he could not have access during the day. Can you imagine the overwhelming pressure to succeed—not just for yourself, but for your school, and for your entire race?

Bond graduated from high school in Bertie County in 1935 and entered North Carolina College in 1937 pursuing a degree in business administration. Bond had no intentions of pursuing a profession in law. In fact, he had plans to attend medical school after

graduation from college, but that was not to be. Dr. James Shepard noticed his outstanding scholastic record in the business department and in 1940 persuaded Bond to begin the law program. Bond was selected for the law program not only because of his intellectual ability, but also more importantly, because Dr. Shepard believed that he had the perseverance to endure the isolation and separation and to successfully complete the course of study, and pass the bar examination. Dr. Shepard's belief proved correct and in 1943, Robert Richard Bond became this proud institution's first graduate. Failure was not an option. In that same year, he took the bar examination and passed on his first attempt. Of the 18 people to successfully pass the North Carolina bar examination in 1943, Robert Bond was the only African-American.

ON MANY OCCASIONS, BOND WOULD LEAVE COURT ONLY TO FIND NOTES ON HIS CAR CLAIMING "THE KKK IS WATCHING YOU." THERE WERE NIGHTS WHEN HE WOULD SIT BEHIND HIS HOUSE, ARMED AND READY TO PROTECT HIS FAMILY AGAINST RACIST ACTIVITY.

After passing the bar, Bond accepted a position with the Social Security Administration in Washington, DC. In 1947, he moved to Wilmington, North Carolina and went into private practice. "Lawyer," as he was affectionately called, was the only African American attorney in Wilmington until his death in 1969. Bond was a staunch civil rights advocate. He was instrumental in the desegregation of the New Hanover County Schools. In addition to filing a lawsuit, he convinced several black families to send their children to their neighborhood schools, thereby forcing integration. During the civil rights demonstrations in Wilmington, he worked diligently to release jailed demonstrators. This focus on civil rights led to threats and harassment. On many occasions, Bond would leave court only to find notes on his car claiming "the KKK is watching you." There were nights when he would sit behind his house, armed and ready to protect his family against racist activity.

Bond was also extremely active in local, state and national politics. He believed that real change for his race would come through the power of the ballot. Bond worked tirelessly to organize voter regis-

A Legal Pioneer In The Fight To Abolish Racial Discrimination In Public Medical Facilities



Robert Bond worked on the first case of hospital discrimination to reach the courts. The case was brought by three African American physicians from Wilmington North Carolina. The plaintiffs in the case were Hubert A. Eaton, Dr. Daniel C. Roane, and Dr. Samuel J. Gray. In 1954 Eaton, accidentally discovered that James Walker Memorial Hospital paid no city or county taxes. Thinking that the hospital was a public institution because it paid no taxes, Eaton applied for staff privileges. His application was rejected. Eaton decided to seek legal counsel and hired Conrad O. Pearson, the lawyer for the North Carolina chapter of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund who lived in Durham, and Robert Bond, a black lawyer from Wilmington. For the next year, Pearson and Bond gathered data; in 1956, they filed suit in North Carolina district court. The lawyers argued in *Eaton v Board of Managers of the James Walker Memorial Hospital* that because of the land contracts between the city and county and James Walker Memorial Hospital, contributions from the local governments to the hospital for maintenance and payment of services to the poor, and the conditions of the will of James Walker about the hospital, discrimination of the physicians was unconstitutional under the Fourteenth Amendment.

Though this case was eventually dismissed, it opened the door for others in the legal community to take up the challenges that lead to the abolition of racial discrimination in public medical facilities.

Written by Marcia Ballard

'Annals of Internal Medicine 1 June 1997 Volume 126 Issue 11 Page 900.

tration campaigns and on Election Day he would go house to house giving rides to the polls. After the Presidential election of John F. Kennedy in 1960, the local Chairman of the Democratic Party (who was white) expressed his surprise, and probably his disappointment, when Bond was invited to the Kennedy inauguration. He jokingly remarked, "How in the world did you get invited and I didn't?"

Robert Richard Bond was born September 26, 1918, to John B. and Mary P. Bond. He was the third of four sons. His mother, Mary, was a teacher and his father, John, was an educator, first teaching and eventually becoming a principal. John Bond, Sr. has the distinction of having a school named for him in Bertie County, North Carolina.

Education was an extremely important ingredient in the Bond family. In addition to Bond receiving his law degree in 1943, both his youngest brother, Clarence, and his father, John, Sr., received bachelor's degrees that same year from North Carolina A & T. Clarence received his degree in agricultural sciences and his father's degree was in education. His older brothers, John Jr. and Harwood, both graduates of North Carolina College, had already received degrees in education and chemistry, respectively. In 1943, to have five college graduates in one family was no small accomplishment.

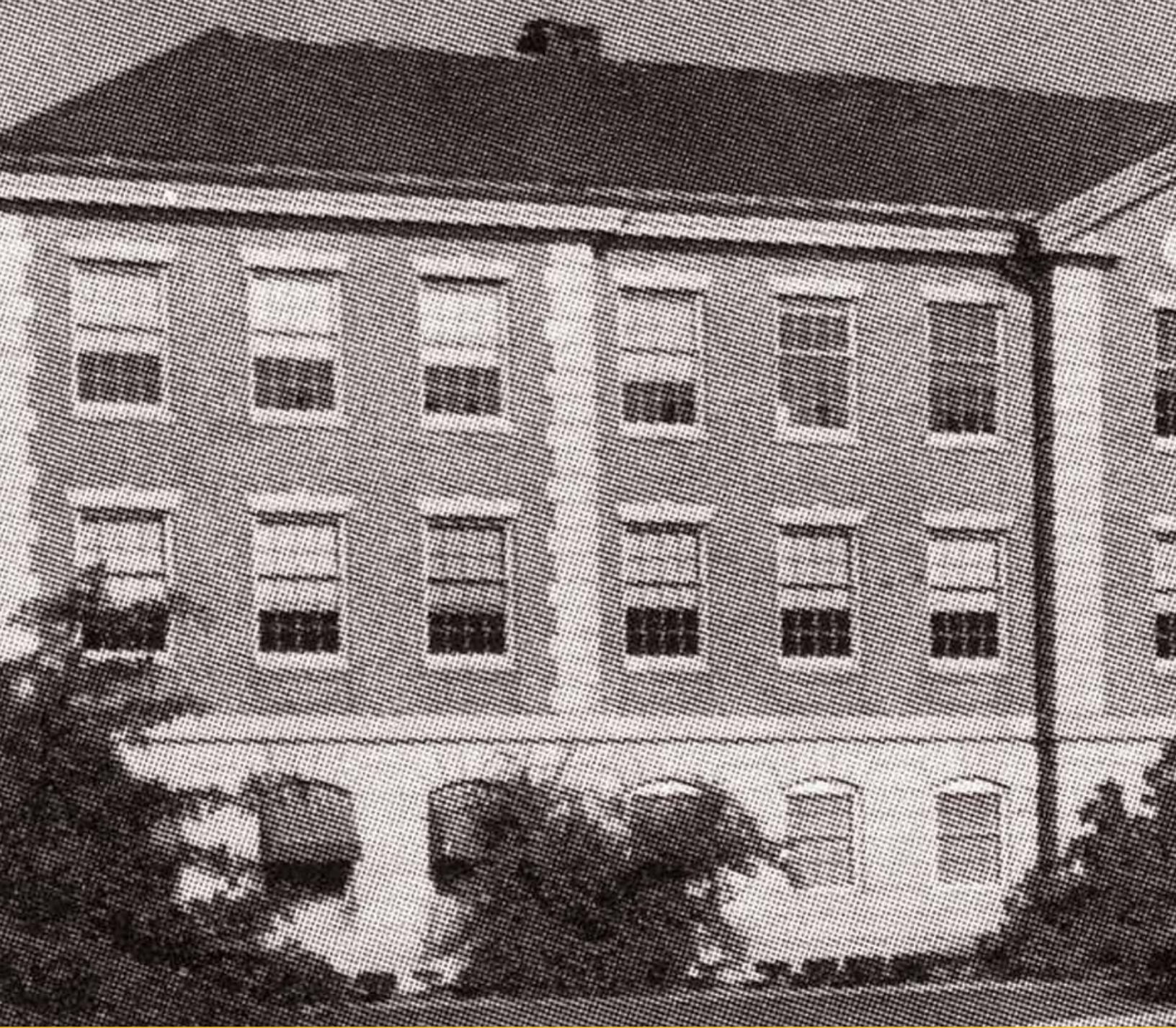
Bond was an active member of numerous professional, social and fraternal organizations including the North Carolina Lawyers Association, the Wilmington, North Carolina Bar Association, the New Hanover County Democratic Party and the Guardsmen. He was also a 33rd Degree Mason and a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

Bond married Margaret Farnsworth in 1953 and to this union was born one daughter, Michele. Michele and her husband Benjamin Hill, are both graduates of North Carolina Central University. They have two sons Benjamin F. Hill, III and Robert Richard Bond Hill.

A prominent portrait of Robert Richard Bond hangs in the North Carolina Central University Law School. The School of Law is proud to claim this distinguished gentleman as its first graduate.

Robert Bond died October 18, 1969

This article first appeared in the NCCU School of Law fall 1999 of Counsel Alumni magazine.



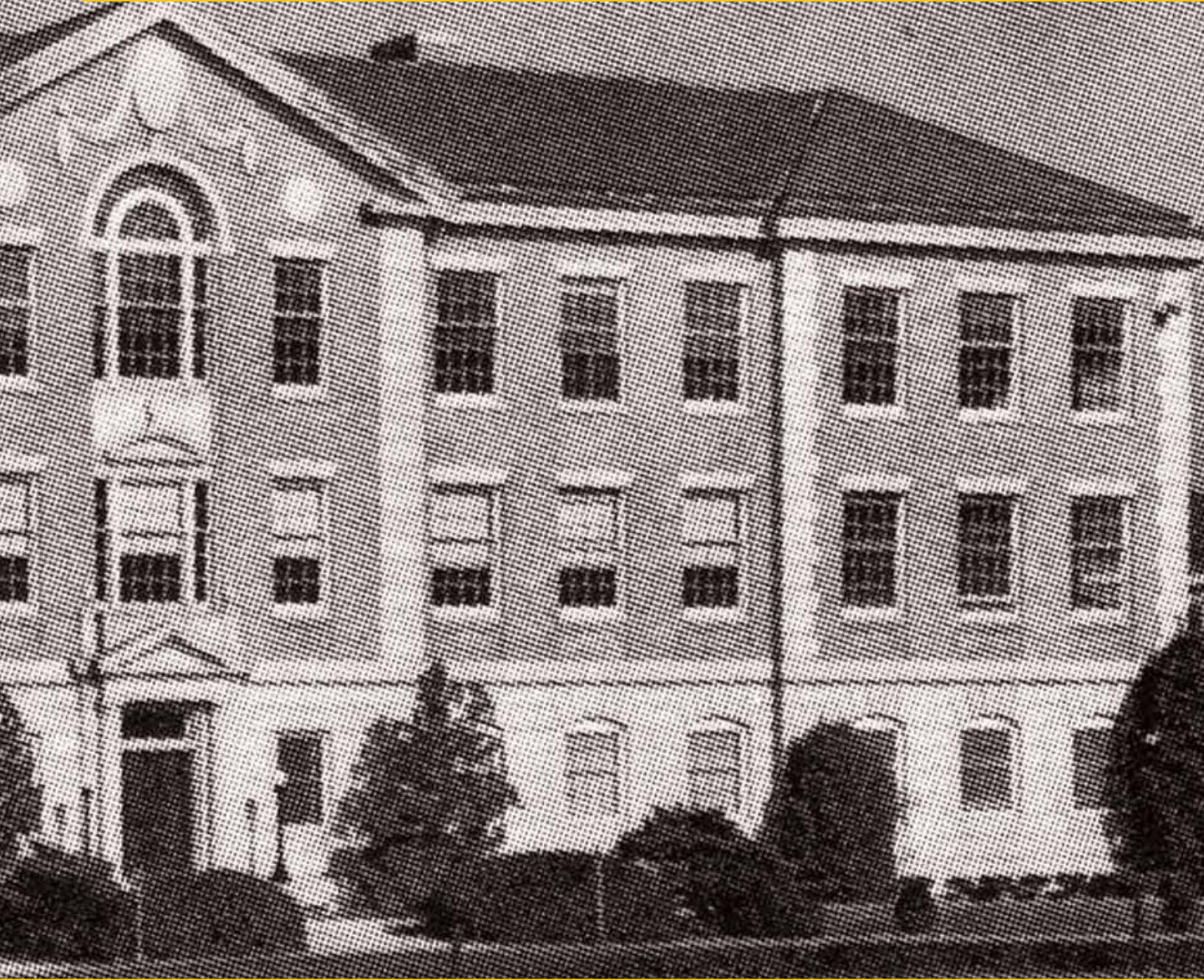
THE STARTING POINT

The starting point was 1939, when the North Carolina General Assembly authorized North Carolina College for Negroes, now known as North Carolina Central University, to establish a law school.

If the history of the NCCU Law School was charted like a map, we would see a road that curves and widens as it moves through the years. We could discern, from the surrounding landscape, the trails

it has blazed through, surmounting obstacles and bridging divides in steady forward progress.

And we would find, with each landmark year, that every foot along the road would find the pavement more firmly packed, more solidly established, more clearly directed toward a path of justice, equality and opportunity.



When the North Carolina General Assembly enacted House Bill 18 on March 1, 1939, it paved the way for a new generation of African-American lawyers. The bill, authorizing a law school at North Carolina College for Negroes, was passed 25 years after Shaw University, in Raleigh, N.C., closed its law school in 1914, a move that left no in-state option for blacks to receive a formal education in law.

Following the Great Depression, the legislation was, in theory, a way to create a separate-but-equal option for blacks who wanted to become lawyers, without integrating the law school at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

House Bill 18 authorized the Board of Trustees to establish the North Carolina College for Negroes Law School and announced it would open in the fall of 1939. Due to the amount of time the college had

THE STARTING POINT CONT...

to prepare and advertise the law school, only one student registered, resulting in the administration delaying the opening to the following year.

Law School Dean Maurice T. Van Hecke, who was also dean of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill (UNC-CH) law school, solicited advice and opinions about the school's curriculum from black attorneys and others. In December 1939, Durham Attorney C. Jerry Gates thanked Van Hecke for providing him a copy of the law school's bulletin. He also wrote,

"I am profoundly of the opinion that the legal education of the Negro in the South has been grossly neglected... The lawyer, in America, comes within the class of the accepted leaders of his people, and if the Negro is to keep pace with his fellow white citizens, he must develop within his ranks strong, competent and outstanding lawyers."

Gates' letter went on to express his disappointment that the Law School had no blacks on the faculty. Having even a part-time black on the faculty, he argued, "would have gone a long way in disabusing the average Negro's mind of the popular notion that the Negro can't serve in such capacity and to a great extent that he is prohibited from practicing law in the south as the white lawyer does."

"I am aware of the fact that a conscientious effort was made to secure some qualified Negro to act in this capacity," he continued. *"However, I can't help but regret that such an effort was not successful."*

Also in December 1939, Winston-Salem Attorney W. Avery Jones wrote Van Hecke that the curriculum outlined in the bulletin "meets with my approval in every way"

"There is one suggestion that I should like to make relative to the colored law school," he continued. *"In view of the fact that there are so few law offices into which the graduates may enter and gain practical experience after graduation and admission to the Bar, it is very necessary that these students be given as much practical training in the law school as possible. It is one thing to know the principles of law involved and what ought to be done; but, an entirely different thing to know how to do it. I, therefore, suggest that the students be given practical training in drawing all kinds of papers so that they will be somewhat self reliant when they enter the field."*





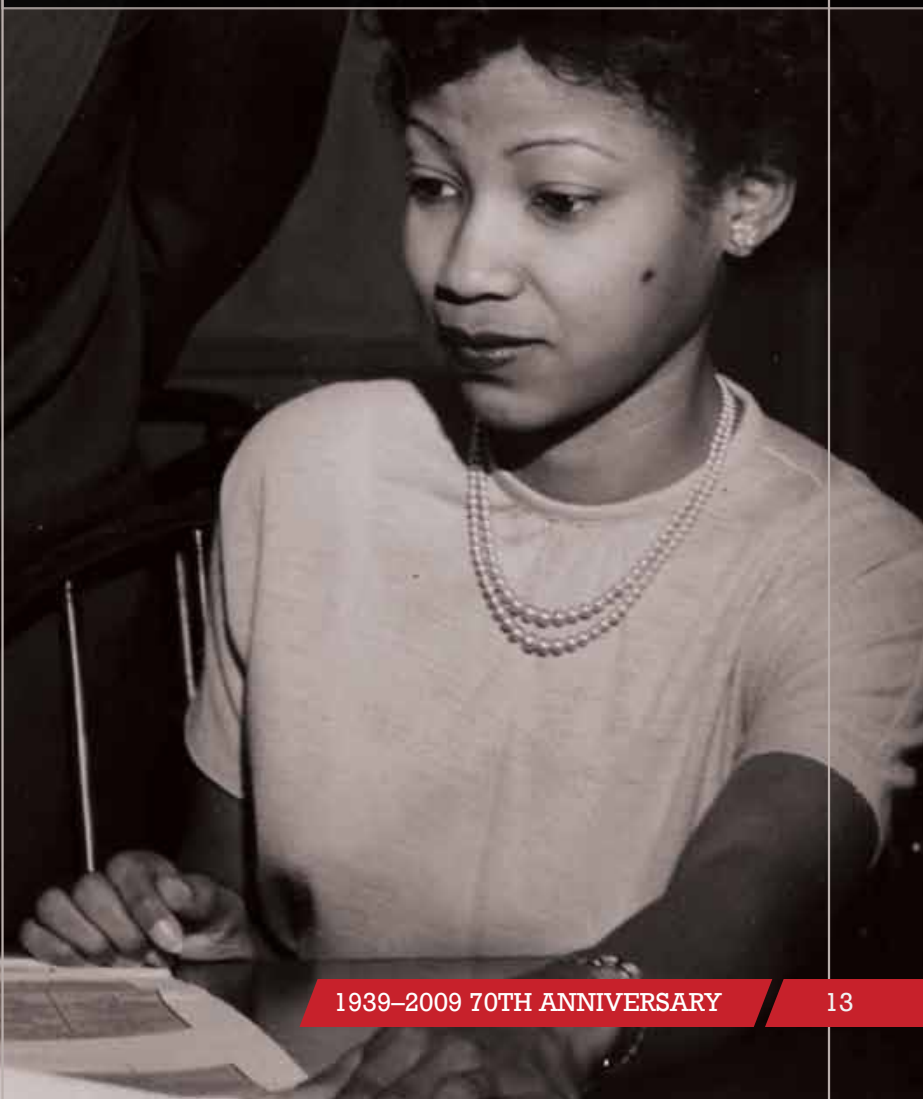


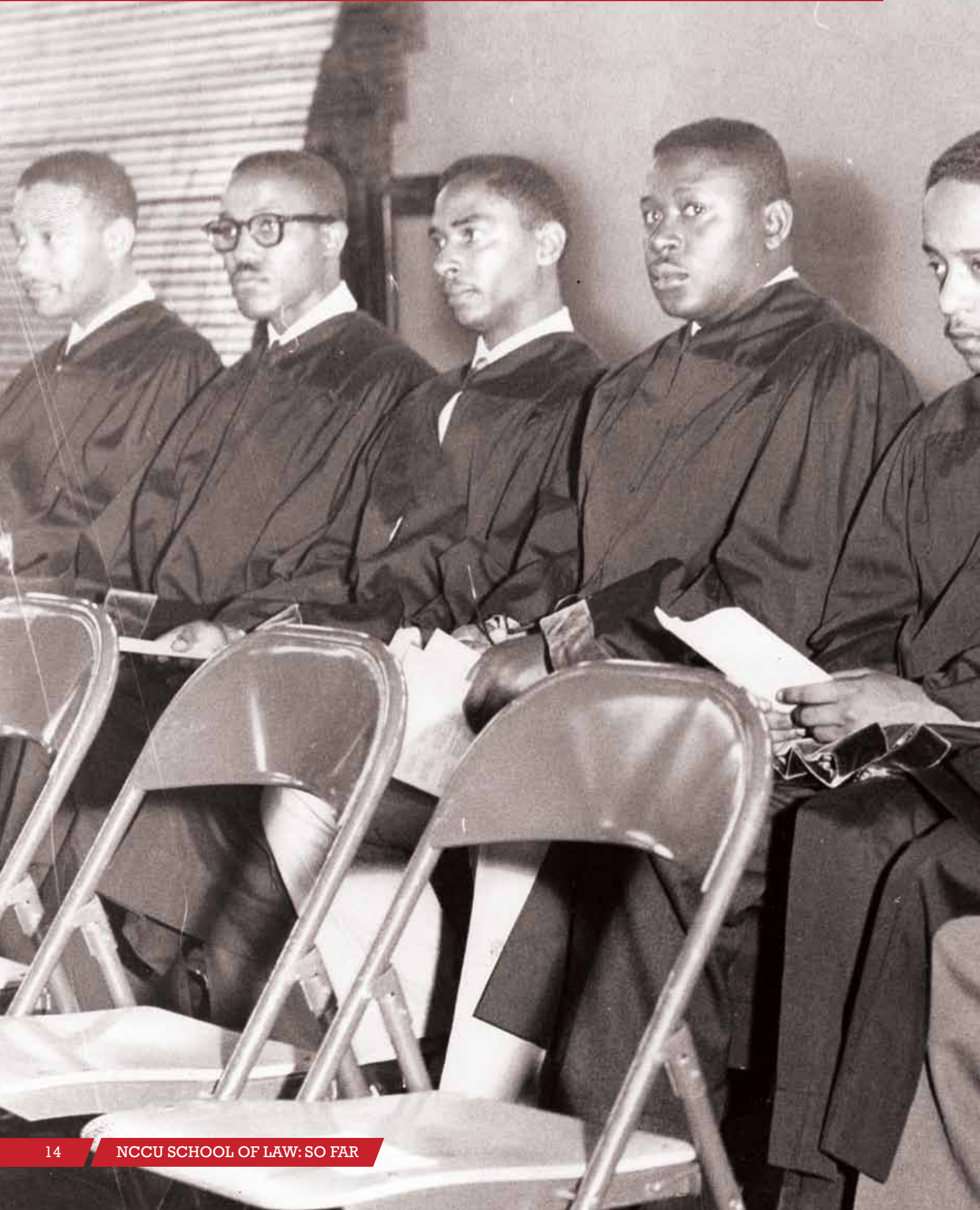


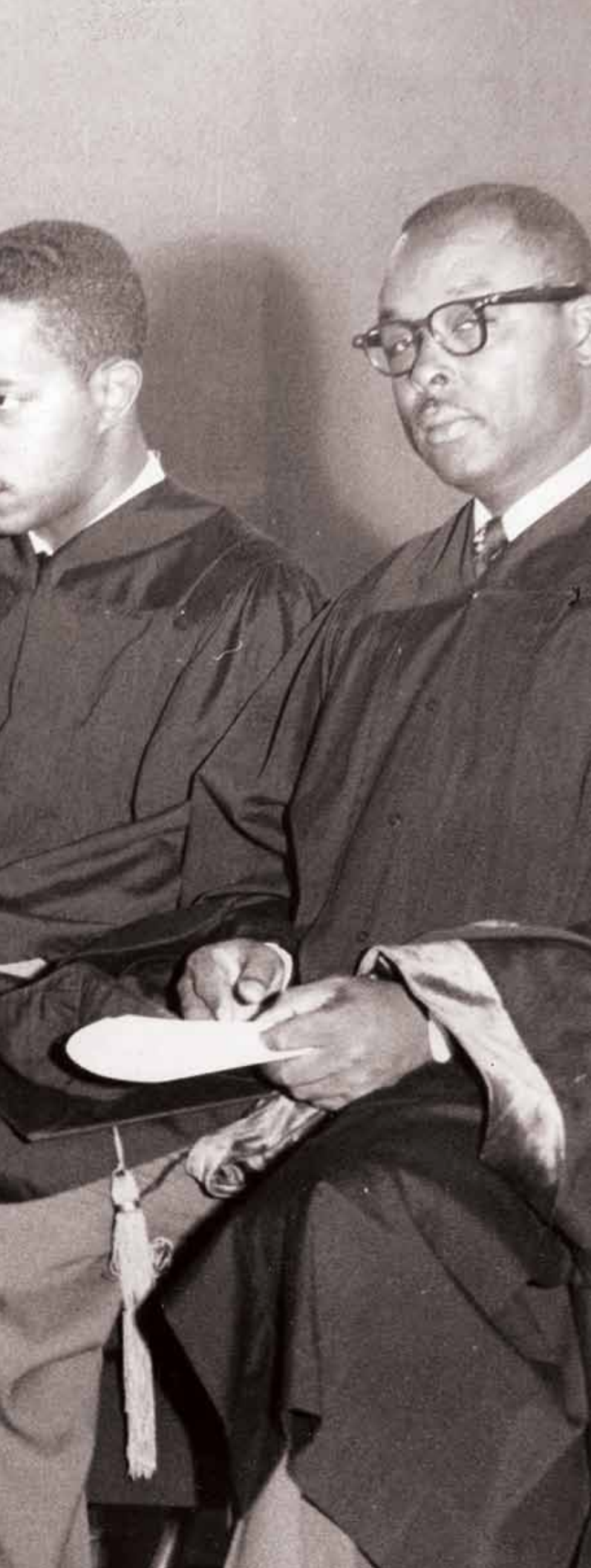
THE EARLY YEARS

When the Law School opened in September 1940, Lewiston native Robert Bond '43 was joined by four other students, selected from a pool of fifteen applicants from states ranging from Texas to Maryland. By the time Bond became the Law School's first graduate in 1943, total enrollment was only six.

The Law School occupied part of the administration building's top floor, until it moved to Avery Auditorium in 1950. In-state tuition the







THE EARLY YEARS CONT...

first semester was \$50. Out-of-state tuition was \$62.50. Room-and-board charges were \$20 per month, and student casebooks cost approximately \$30 per year. Tuition for in-state students did not increase until 1946, when it rose to \$75 a semester.

A first-year course of study was offered during the 1940–41 year, including Civil Procedure, Agency, Contracts, Torts, and Real Property. Additional courses were offered in 1941–42.

The first-year curriculum duplicated what law school students studied at the all-white law school in nearby Chapel Hill. Not only did the two law schools share Van Hecke as dean, they also shared several professors and a law librarian. Other law professors during those formative years came from Duke University. In 1941, three full-time black instructors were added to the faculty. Among them was Albert L. Turner, who was dean of the Law School from 1942 to 1965.

Enrollment continued to be relatively low during World War II, when more than one million African-Americans served in the Armed Forces. Night classes were offered for local businessmen, attracting prominent Durham blacks such as John Wheeler and J.J. Sansom, Jr., both of whom later served as president of the largest black controlled bank in the South, Durham's Mechanics and Farmers Bank.

The war years also brought another change to the Law School—the addition of women students. For the 1944–45 term, two women, Ruth Norman and Ruth Taylor, enrolled in the Law School, boosting enrollment to seven. The next year, of the 13 students enrolled, four were women. Three of the four, Catherine Johnson, Marcia McDonald and Ruth Norman, graduated in 1948, and were the only students to graduate that year. After they graduated, no women attended the Law School at the North Carolina College at Durham (as the college was called from 1947–1969) until the 1952–53 year, when Anne Duncan enrolled. She later became librarian at the Law School and served as a member of the school's admissions committee.



POINTS OF VICTORY

In 1950, the American Bar Association (ABA) accredited the Law School, a victory for the school's students, administrators and other supporters. However, despite the coveted seal of approval from the ABA, even the school's top students were denied equal access to other state-supported law schools. In 1950, Harold Epps, one of the Law School's law review students, challenged this practice. He and several other law students from the North Carolina College at

Durham filed a lawsuit seeking admission to UNC-CH Law School. He was represented by Conrad Pearson, a well-known civil rights attorney in Durham, and Thurgood Marshall, who in 1967 was sworn in as the first African-American Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court. Initially, a federal district court denied admission to UNC-CH Law School for Epps and the other plaintiffs, arguing that "the best interests of the plaintiffs will be served by denying the relief sought."



The decision was reversed by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in *McKissick v. Carmichael*, prompting Floyd McKissick and five other black law students to enroll at UNC's law school during the summer of 1950. The victory was significant, creating one of the first times in the state's history that black and white students attended a state-supported school together. Two of the African-American law students who attended law school classes at UNC-CH, Floyd McKis-

sick and James Lassiter, later returned to North Carolina College Law School, where they graduated in 1951. McKissick went on to become national executive director of the Congress of Racial Equality.

The Epps and McKissick lawsuits provided an ironic backdrop to what became one of North Carolina College's proudest moments.

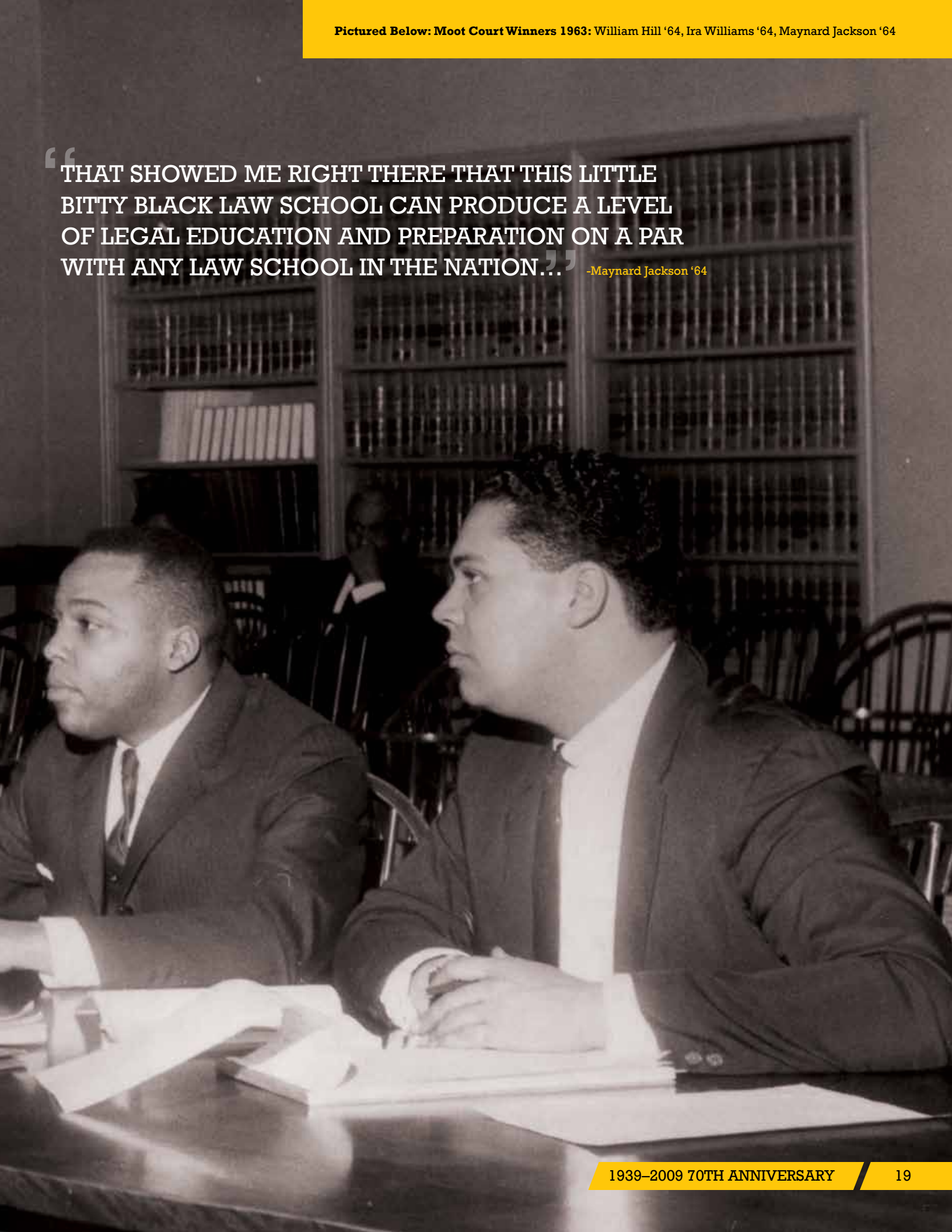


POINTS OF VICTORY CONT...

During the 1963–64 academic year, North Carolina College Law School was victorious over UNC-CH in a regional moot court competition with 16 teams competing. The North Carolina College team, led by Maynard Jackson, who went on to become mayor of Atlanta, also were victorious over teams from Duke University and the University of South Carolina before suffering a controversial loss to the University of Virginia. More than 20 years later, Jackson recalled the event during an interview with a newspaper reporter.

“That showed me right there that this little bitty black law school can produce a level of legal education and preparation on a par with any law school in the nation,” Jackson told the reporter.

“ THAT SHOWED ME RIGHT THERE THAT THIS LITTLE BITTY BLACK LAW SCHOOL CAN PRODUCE A LEVEL OF LEGAL EDUCATION AND PREPARATION ON A PAR WITH ANY LAW SCHOOL IN THE NATION...” -Maynard Jackson '64



GROWING PAINS

Enrollment rose slightly after the war, with 24 students in 1946–47, 26 students in 1947–48 and 30 in 1948–49. Despite increasing admissions, the Law School struggled financially in the early years. By 1949, it was poorly equipped and barely making ends meet. Students travelled across the state in an appeal to officials to upgrade the school. When those efforts failed, students picketed

the State Capitol, carrying signs urging state officials to increase support for the school. During the 1940s, '50s and '60s, enrollment dipped and rebounded several times, with the Law School graduating a handful of students every year.

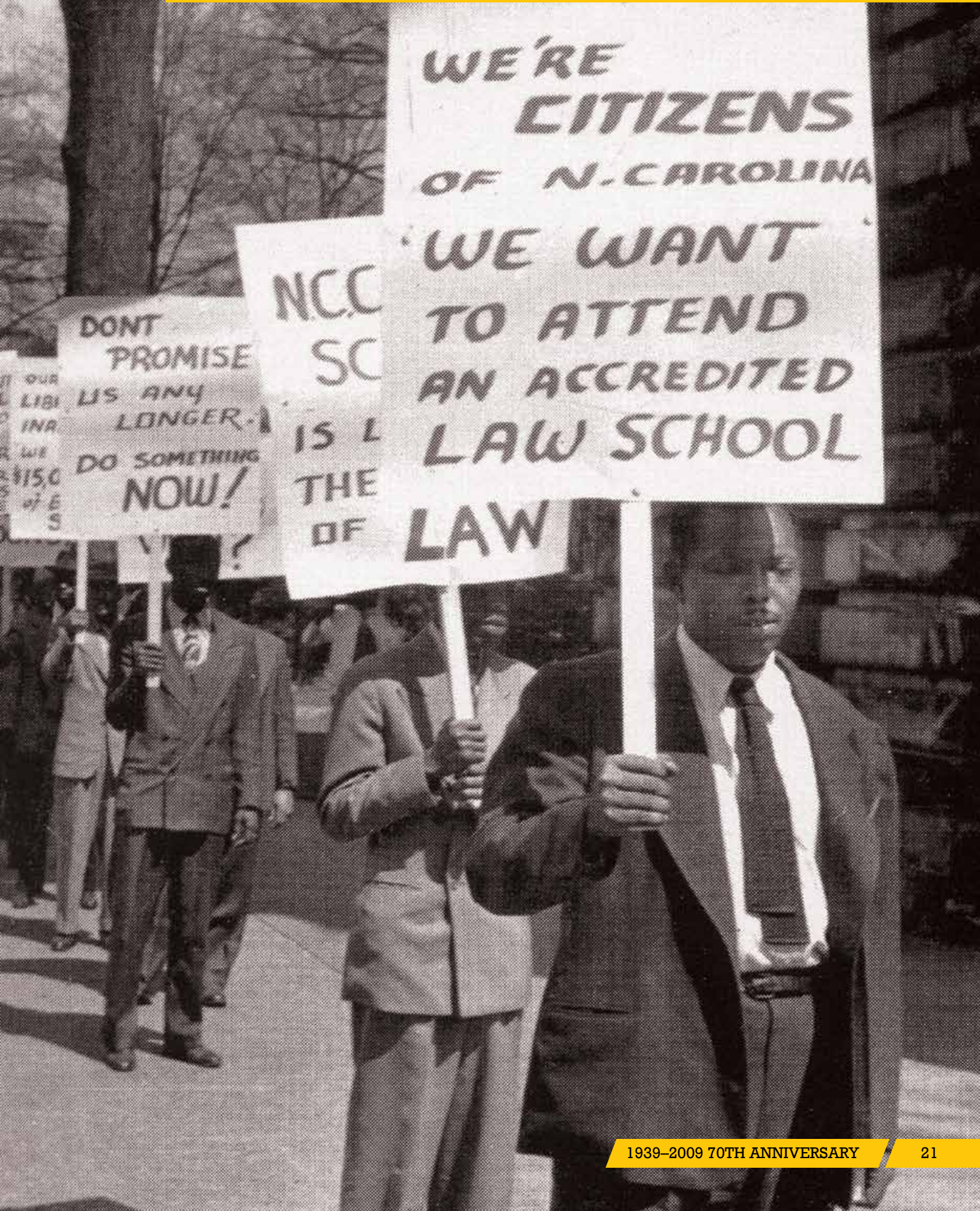
WELCOMING DIVERSITY

The Law School admitted its first White students in 1965. By 1972, the school's student diversity had become a topic of newspaper articles. Among the students to graduate during this time were three Native-Americans—the first members of the Lumbee tribe to earn their law degrees. At one time, North Carolina College Law School had the highest number of Native-Americans enrolled in the

Southeast. In 1971–72, the Law School had 266 students, including 40 women, four Native-Americans, two Africans, one Asian and one West-Indian. They came from 21 states, Washington, D.C., Liberia, the West Indies, China and Sierra Leone.

Lumbee Indian Law Students with Dean DeJarmon: Arnold Locklear '73, Horace Locklear, center Dean LeMarquis DeJarmon, Ertle Chavis '73 and Henry Oxendine '73







CHALLENGES TO THE LAW SCHOOL'S EXISTENCE

To Be Or Not To Be

In the late 1960s, the North Carolina Board of Higher Education recommended phasing out the Law School by June 1974. The board argued that it made economic sense to phase out the Law School if Black enrollment at UNC-CH Law School could be increased to match that at NCC Law School. The Law School's supporters were outraged by the proposal. Alumni and others launched a campaign to halt it. Legal organizations drafted resolutions condemning it. The George H. White Bar Association, whose president, William C. Pearson graduated from the Law School in 1954, passed such a resolution in February 1967. Among other things, the resolution pointed out that the North Carolina College School of Law produced,

"an overwhelming majority of the lawyers who have been most active in providing the expertise required to bring about the social

changes now existing for the poor of the state, a substantial number of whom are Negroes..." There was "an alarming shortage of Negro lawyers in the State of North Carolina as indicated by the fact that there are approximately 4,500 lawyers in the state of which only 86 are Negroes..." There was approximately one white lawyer for every 768 white residents and one black lawyer for every 16,910 black residents, "or in other words, there are 44.5 lawyers for every county in the state in contrast to only one Negro lawyer for every one and two-fifth counties in the state..." The resolution went on to point out that the North Carolina College Law School "serves the entire citizenry of the State of North Carolina ... as is evidenced by the fact that the North Carolina College School of Law is the most integrated law school, faculty and student body in the state..." with growing enrollment.

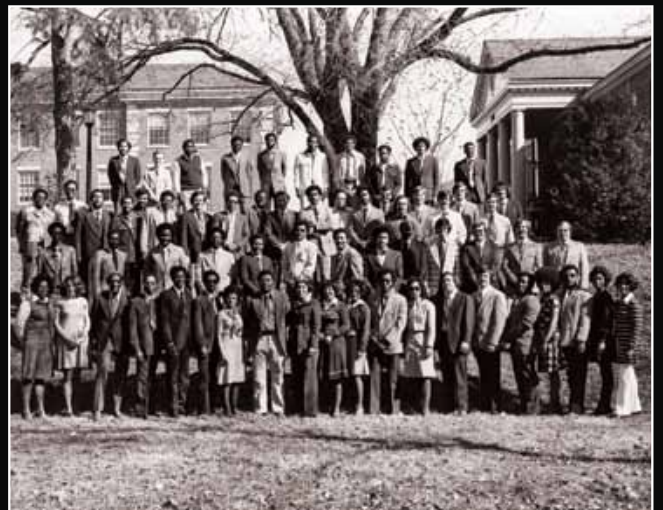


The Law School's Response

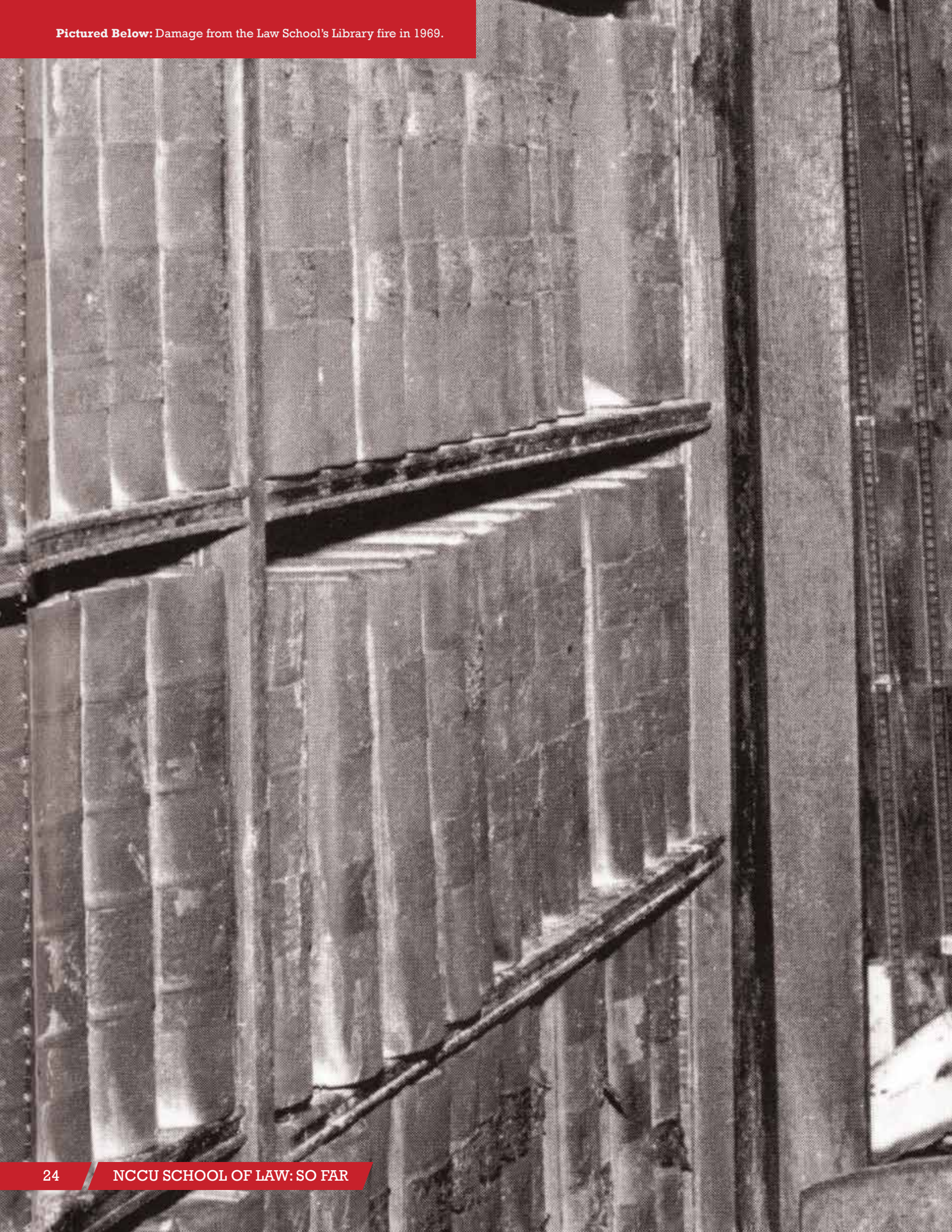


Dean Daniel Sampson responded to the controversy by issuing what became known as "The Sampson Report," which documented the negative impact such a move would have on the black community. Another response made during Sampson's tenure was to increase white enrollment at the school.

Enrollment Numbers On The Rise



Enrollment and the number of graduates increased dramatically in the early 1970s, from 18 in 1971 to 110 in 1976. One of the reasons for the Law School's rapidly growing enrollment was the Board of Education's 1968 decree for UNC-CH law school to attract as many Black law students as North Carolina College Law School was graduating. By admitting more students, North Carolina College Law School was making it more difficult for UNC-CH Law School to meet the mandate. In 1969, UNC-CH had only one Black in its law school, compared to 74 enrolled at North Carolina College Law School. There were also 14 white students enrolled at the Law School in 1969. Increasing the number of Law School students at North Carolina College, now known as North Carolina Central University in 1969, also decreased the per-student cost to operate the school, helping to improve the chances that the Law School would remain open.



THE FIRE

In 1969 a disgruntled former student set a fire in the Law School building, destroying library books valued at \$500,000. Students and staff rallied to clean up the damage and held a fund drive to replace the destroyed books. Unfortunately, some of the books had been out of print for more than one hundred years, and were irreplaceable.

For Fiscal Year 2008–2009 NCCU Law Library houses over 300,000 volumes and has over 400,000 titles, of which 77% are electronic.



Community members and staff helped with the clean-up of the Law School Library.



RAISING THE BAR

Although the Law School's outlook improved during the 1970s, the school faced criticism for not better preparing its graduates for the state bar examination. Criticism peaked in 1974, when the press reported that fewer than one quarter of the school's graduates passed the state bar exam on their first try.

"The school was never adequately funded," State Rep. Henry Ward Oxendine said in 1974, responding to the criticism. Oxendine was one of the first Native-Americans to graduate from law school in North Carolina when he finished NCCU in 1973. Media reports in 1974 offered explanations for the low passing including comparisons between financial support for UNC and NCCU Law Schools. In 1974, the Associated Press reported that:

- *UNC Law School received more money per law student than NCCU —\$1,250 per student at the much-larger UNC, compared to \$917 per student at NCCU.*
- *The student-faculty ratio at the time was 23 to 1 at UNC, compared to 33 to 1 at NCCU.*
- *UNC's law library contained some 150,000 volumes, compared to NCCU's 42,368.*
- *Average faculty salary at UNC was \$7,442 more than the average law school salary at NCCU, according to NCCU Law School Dean LeMarquis DeJarmon.*

The Law School rallied to improve test scores. The school secured additional state funds, retained a consultant, hired more faculty members and made other improvements to address the problems. Passing rates for the state bar began to improve. In 1983, the percentage of NCCU graduates taking the North Carolina State Bar Examination for the first time and passing reached 82 percent, compared to a statewide passing rate of 79 percent.





REBOUNDED

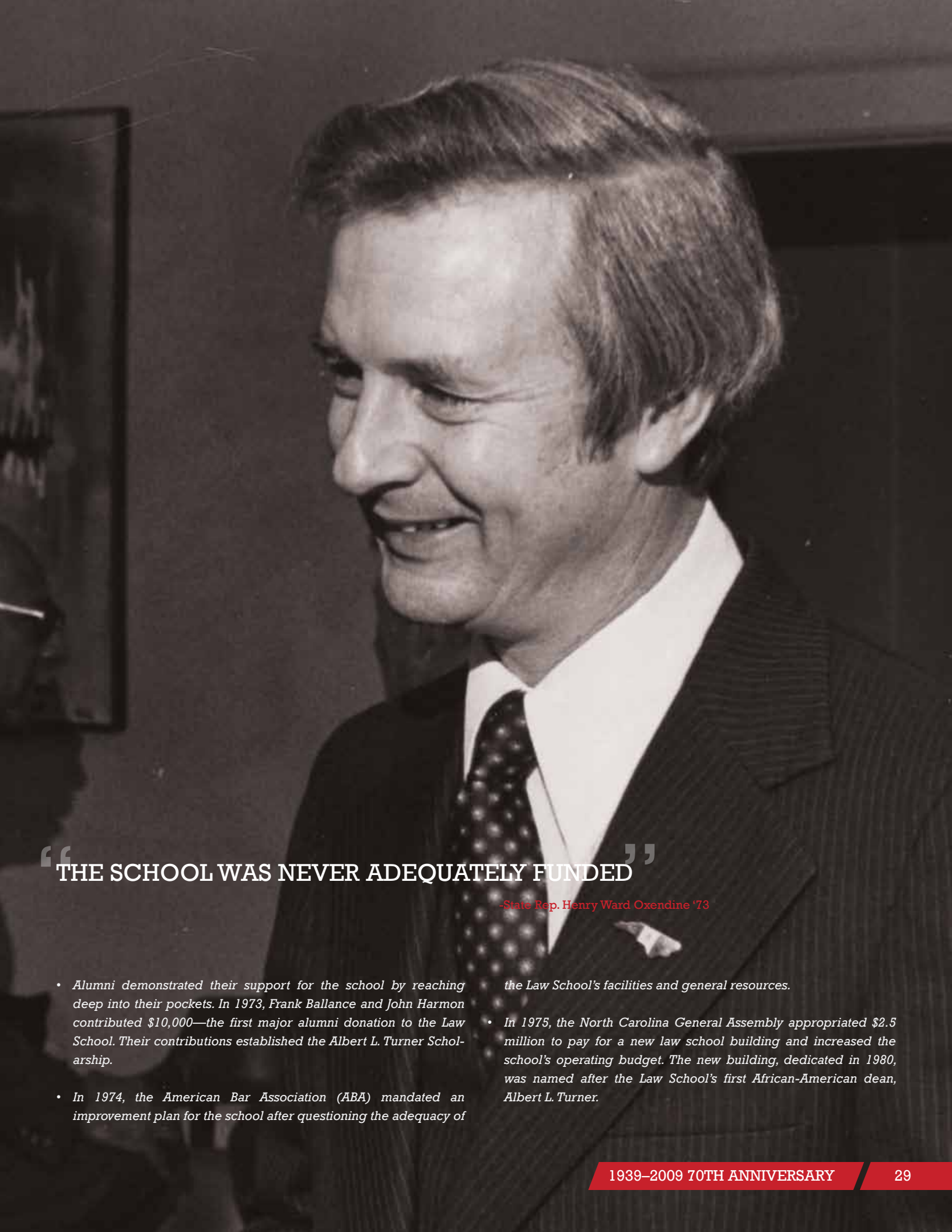
The Law School's outlook was improved in other ways.

For example:

- *The United States Department of Health, Education and Welfare determined in 1970 that "vestiges of segregation persisted in the state's postsecondary schools" and ordered North Carolina to*

submit a remedial plan to bring its higher education system into compliance with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

- *Becoming a Constituent Institution of the University of North Carolina placed black institutions in a better lobbying position for increased state funding.*



“ THE SCHOOL WAS NEVER ADEQUATELY FUNDED ”

-State Rep. Henry Ward Oxendine '73

- Alumni demonstrated their support for the school by reaching deep into their pockets. In 1973, Frank Ballance and John Harmon contributed \$10,000—the first major alumni donation to the Law School. Their contributions established the Albert L. Turner Scholarship.
- In 1974, the American Bar Association (ABA) mandated an improvement plan for the school after questioning the adequacy of the Law School's facilities and general resources.
- In 1975, the North Carolina General Assembly appropriated \$2.5 million to pay for a new law school building and increased the school's operating budget. The new building, dedicated in 1980, was named after the Law School's first African-American dean, Albert L. Turner.

A WORTHY CHALLENGE

In 1979, Groves made a historic proposal to the Board of Trustees offering an evening law school—the first and only in the state. As construction for the Albert L. Turner building was nearly complete, Groves unveiled his plans at a Board of Trustees meeting, explaining that the proposed evening program would give working people more flexibility.

Under the leadership of Dean Daye the percentage of Law School graduates taking the North Carolina State Bar Examination for the first time reached 82 percent compared to the state-wide bar passage rate of 79 percent. In addition, Daye ensured Groves' vision of a law school evening program thriving and growing. The evening program was implemented in 1981 and until the mid-1990s, it was the only evening program between Washington D.C. and Atlanta, Ga. Today, it is the only law school evening program in the state of North Carolina.

When the Law School celebrated its 40th anniversary in 1979, Groves wrote a statement about the school's unique history, particularly against the backdrop of integration at the state's other law schools. "Integration of the other institutions has by no means lessened the basic mission of this Law School, to provide a door for a greater number of blacks into this profession. A profession which has the further vital social role of producing many of the political leaders so important to the continued advancement of this society. Whites, too, find that this environment provides a special opportunity to interact with people in a world not all of whose majorities happen to mirror their own likeness," he wrote. "The unique challenge of this institution," Groves continued, "is not merely to keep open a wider door of opportunity to persons from educational backgrounds which have frequently failed to make their admissions criteria competitive at other schools, but to cause such students to raise the level of their competence and performance so that they enter the profession not disadvantaged in comparison with graduates of other institutions. It is not a small challenge. It is a worthy one."

“UNDER THE LEADERSHIP OF DEAN DAYE THE PERCENTAGE OF LAW SCHOOL GRADUATES TAKING THE NORTH CAROLINA STATE BAR EXAMINATION FOR THE FIRST TIME REACHED 82% COMPARED TO THE STATE WIDE BAR PASSAGE RATE OF 79%.”



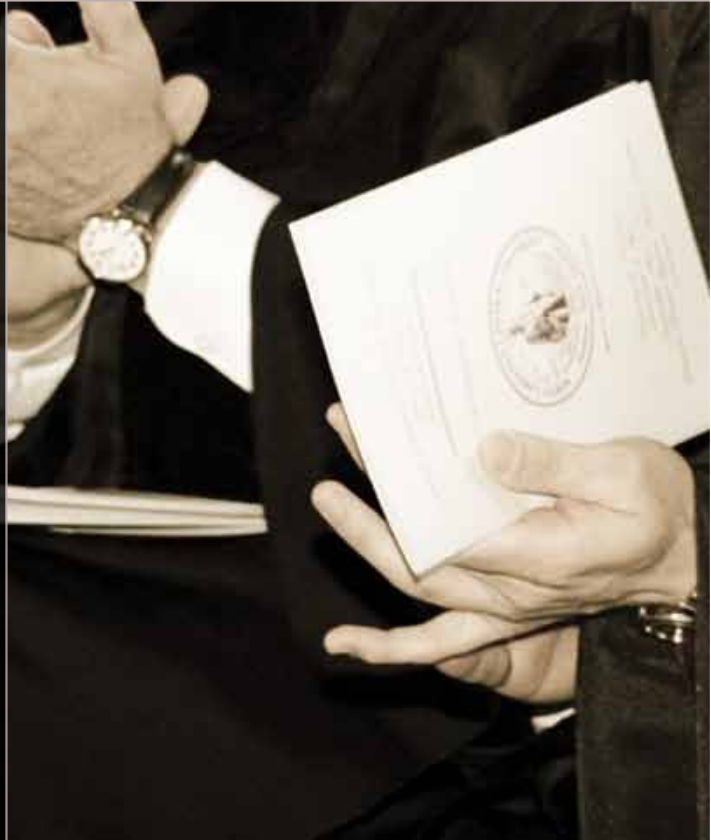




A NEW ERA

After Groves resigned in 1981 the Law School continued to make great strides under the leadership of deans Charles E. Daye (1981–1985), Thomas M. Ringer (interim dean—1985–1986), Louis Westfield (1986–1990), Mary E. Wright (interim dean—1990–1994) and Percy R. Luney, Jr. (1994–1998). Dean Janice Mills was named interim dean of the Law School in August 1998, on the eve of orientation for incoming classes. The following spring, she was officially appointed as dean. At the beginning of the 1999–2000 year, Dean Mills welcomed 113 new students, bringing the total enrollment to 362. Of those 113 students, 45 percent are African-American, 39 percent are white, 11 percent are Mexican-American or Hispanic, 4 percent are Asian-American, 1 percent are Native-American and 59 percent are women.

As the Law School crossed into the new millennium and reached its seventh decade, Dean Raymond C. Pierce like his predecessors will continue to build on the foundations of those who came before him, including LeMarquis DeJarmon, who once said, “[we]... must let our minds be bold and propose legal principles that will enhance... individual freedom, integrity, and human worth.”







*And so, the legacy continues,
resounding with a commitment to,
helping people learn to help others.*

THE FUTURE



Angeline Bettis '09

Before looking forward, one must first look back at the humble beginning of the North Carolina Central University School of Law and consider the monumental impact the esteemed former Deans had in paving the way for the current leadership of this now august, legal institution. Deans like Albert L. Turner (1942–1965), the first African-American and first full-time dean who served for 23 years. He was instrumental in laying a firm foundation of what was to come. Daniel G. Sampson (1965–1969)

demonstrated his leadership and steadfast resolve against efforts to close down the Law School. LeMarquis DeJarmon (1969–1976) ensured a smooth clean-up operation after a devastating fire engulfed the law library. Harry E. Groves (1976–1981) oversaw the move into the new law building, named after Dean Albert L. Turner, and was the guiding force behind the creation of the Law School's evening program. Under the leadership of Charles E. Daye (1981–1985), the percentage of our law school graduates taking the North Carolina State Bar Examination for the first time reached 82% compared to a statewide passage rate of 79%.

From the middle of the 1980's to the middle of the 1990's, three deans—Thomas M. Ringer, Jr. (interim position 1985–1986)—Louis Westerfield (1986–1994)—Mary E. Wright (served as interim in 1990 and became dean in 1991–1994)—preserved and safeguarded the advancements achieved. In 1995, various significant events occurred under the leadership of Percy Luney, Jr. (1994–1998). First, the Law School established the Charles Hamilton Houston Chair. This position was created for distinguished visiting professors who are experts in the field of constitutional and civil rights law. The chair was made possible with a generous donation of \$667,000 from businessman Franklin R. Anderson and NCCU Law School faculty member Susie R. Powell. Second, the Law School was chosen as the Best Law School for Women by the *National Jurist Magazine*. The following year, the Law School opened its new Model Clinic and a joint degree program enabling students to receive the juris doctor and master of business administration degree in four years. In 1997, the RJR Nabisco Endowed Chair in Business and Law was established. Dean Janice L. Mills (1998–2005) managed the complex and intricate expansion of the Turner Law Building along with a continued upturn in

student enrollment and bar passage rate.

Since its first and only graduate received his law degree in 1943, NCCU School of Law has grown into a robust legal academy and under the current leadership of Dean Raymond C. Pierce (2005–present), the Law School is poised to make even greater strides as illustrated below:

- *In 2005 a new addition to the Turner Law Building was completed allowing for growth of the Law School with adequate space for a student lounge, study rooms, administrative offices, a faculty conference room and a great hall.*
- *In 2007 the North Carolina General Assembly approved a \$4.5 million dollar increase in recurring funds for the Law School. This increased state support was in response to concerns expressed by the American Bar Association regarding sufficient funding to support a program of legal education consistent with standards of accreditation. This increased funding has significantly improved the ability of the Law School to provide a competitive quality program relative to national standards of legal education.*
- *The school's American Bar Association accreditation was re-confirmed in January 2008 after Dean Pierce enlisted the support of NCCU Law School alumni to win a sustained funding increase from the North Carolina Legislature, which, combined with a tuition increase, resolved ABA's concerns.*
- *The Law School is continuing to progress toward full membership in the American Association of Law School (AALS).*
- *NCCU Law School was recognized as the best value in the nation in 2007 and 2009 based on tuition, bar passage rate and employment.*
- *The Law School has experienced a 12% increase in applications over the past three years from 2649 to 3200.*
- *Enrollment has increased 35% over the past three years from 472 to 637.*
- *The Law School posted an 85% bar passage rate in July 2008.*
- *NCCU law graduates find work readily, with 87% employed within nine months of graduation. Of those, 61% become associates in law firms while 16% take government jobs. The remainder, work at nonprofits, in clerkships and in academia.*
- *An outstanding 85% of NCCU law students participate in our nine legal clinics. NCCU law ranks number 20 among law schools with the most legal clinic opportunities.*



September 1939:

North Carolina College for Negroes Law School is scheduled to open, but only one student registers for the fall session. The administration decides to delay the opening for another year. Maurice Van Hecke, dean of the University of North Carolina Law School, becomes dean.

1949:

Financial struggles prompt students to tour the state in an appeal to officials to upgrade the school.



1942:

Albert L. Turner becomes the first African-American dean of the Law School.

1950:

The American Bar Association (ABA) accredits the Law School. Harold Epps, a law review student, and several other students from the Law School file a lawsuit seeking admission to the University of North Carolina School of Law. Epps is represented by Conrad Pearson, a well-known civil rights attorney in Durham, and Thurgood Marshall, who in 1967 became the first African-American Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.



September 1940:

The North Carolina College for Negroes Law School opens in part of the administration building's top floor. Robert Bond and four other students, selected from a pool of 15 applicants, constitute the first Law School class. In-state tuition that first semester was \$50.



1943:

Robert Bond becomes the Law School's first graduate.

A decision by the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals in *McKissick vs. Carmichael* prompts six African-American law students—including Law School student Floyd McKissick—to enroll at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Law School during the summer. The victory represents one of the first times in the state's history that black and white students attended a state-supported school together.



1948:

Catherine E. Johnson, Marcia M. McDonald and Ruth Caldwell were the first women to graduate from the Law School.

1935

1940

1945

1950

March 1, 1939:

The North Carolina General Assembly enacts House Bill 18, authorizing a Law School at North Carolina College for Negroes.

1947:

The North Carolina General Assembly changes the college's name to North Carolina College at Durham.

1951:

Robert Glass graduates and later becomes the first African-American Assistant United States Attorney in Connecticut.

1963-1964:

The moot court team from North Carolina College at Durham Law School is victorious over teams from the University of North Carolina, Duke University and the University of South Carolina in a regional moot court competition before suffering a controversial loss to the University of Virginia.



1969:

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Law School has only one African-American enrolled at its Law School at this time, compared to 74 at North Carolina College at Durham . NCCU also has 14 whites enrolled in the Law School.

The college's name changed to North Carolina Central University.

1972:

Student diversity at the Law School becomes a topic of newspaper articles. Among the school's 266 students are 40 women, four Native-Americans, two Africans, one Asian and one West-Indian.

North Carolina Central University becomes a Constituent Institution of the University of North Carolina System.



1964:

H.M. "Mickey" Michaux Jr. graduates and later is the first African-American in the 20th Century to serve as a United States Attorney in the south.



Daniel Sampson issues what became known as "The Sampson Report," documenting the negative impact phasing out the Law School would have on the African-American

community. Adding to the Law School's difficulties, a disgruntled former student sets fire to the Law School building, destroying library books valued at \$500,000.

1972:

The NCCU Clinical Legal Education Program was established.

The Program teaches advocacy skills and provides the opportunity for students to gain practical experience by representing people in the community. Experienced attorneys supervise students in the clinic or as externs. In 2008, the Program was ranked 20th in the nation by National Jurist Magazine.



1967:

Clifton Johnson graduates and later becomes North Carolina's first African-American Assistant State Prosecutor, first African-American Chief District Court Judge and the first North Carolina

College at Durham Law School alumnus to serve on the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

1955

1960

1965

1970



1958:

Sammie Chess Jr. graduates and later becomes the first African-American Special Superior Court Judge in North Carolina.

1968:

The North Carolina Board of Higher Education recommends phasing out the Law School by 1974, if African-American enrollment at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill's Law School can be increased to match that at North Carolina College at Durham.

1974:

The media report that fewer than one-quarter of the school's graduates pass the North Carolina Bar Examination on their first try, and the Law School rallies to improve examination scores.

1975:

The North Carolina General Assembly appropriates \$2.5 million for a new Law School building and increases the school's operating budget.

1983:

The percentage of North Carolina Central University graduates taking the North Carolina State Bar examination for the first time and passing reaches 82 percent compared to a statewide passing rate of 79 percent.



1994:

Percy R. Luney, Jr. becomes Law School dean.



1976:

Harry E. Groves becomes Law School dean.



1986:

Louis Westerfield becomes Law School dean.

1995:

The Law School established the Charles Hamilton Houston Chair, representing the single largest private gift ever made to the Law School. Businessman Franklin R. Anderson and his wife, former NCCU Law School faculty member Susie R. Powell, donated \$667,000 to augment \$333,000 from the state legislature to provide the \$1 million needed for the chair, named for the former NAACP lawyer and civil rights activist. The chair is intended for a professor with a distinguished record of teaching, research and publications, and public service in the areas of constitutional and civil rights law. The first person to hold the chair was Professor Robert Belton of Vanderbilt University. Professor Jerome Culp of Duke University held the position during the 1998-99 academic year.

Update:

Since then the chair has been held by Professor Fred Gray, Julius Chambers, former Chancellor of NCCU, Professor Alvin Chambliss and Professor Janelle Byrd Chichester.



1981:

Charles E. Daye becomes Law School dean.

North Carolina Central University opens the first evening Law School in the state.



1990:

Mary E. Wright becomes the Law School's first woman dean.

National Jurist magazine names NCCU Law School the Best Law School for Women.

1975

1980

1985

1990



1985:

Thomas M. Ringer becomes Law School dean.

1993:

Law professors Grady Jessup and Tom Ringer help revive the Trial Advocacy Board.

1999:

North Carolina Central University School of Law celebrates its 60th Anniversary.

1996:

The Law School opened its new Model Law Clinic to house its clinical program. The clinical programs provide an opportunity for students to gain practical experience while helping people in the community resolve real-life problems. Experienced attorneys supervise the students in the clinic, which includes the criminal litigation, civil litigation and the family law.

The Law School introduced a program enabling students to receive the juris doctor and masters of business administration degrees in four years, rather than the usual five. The joint degree program prepares students for career opportunities in law and business.

1997:

The RJR Nabisco Endowed Chair in Business and Law was established. It is a joint appointment between the two schools. The professor focuses on teaching, research and scholarship in the areas of international business transactions, international trade and comparative law.



1998:

Janice L. Mills becomes Law School dean.

2000:

The Alternative Dispute Resolution Clinic enrolls its first student. Since then, the ADR Clinic has accommodated 12 to 16 students each semester and every summer.



2005:

Raymond C. Pierce becomes Law School dean.

The new addition to the Turner Law Building was completed allowing for growth of the Law School with adequate space for a student lounge, study rooms, administrative offices, a faculty conference room and a great hall.

2007-08:

The School of Law is named as the best value law school in the United States by *preLaw* magazine; 18th in the nation by the *National Jurist* for technology; 20th in the nation by the *National Jurist* for the most clinical opportunities; 7th by the *Princeton Review* and the *National Jurist* as the most diverse faculty; and 13th by the *National Jurist* as a law school students interested in public interest law attend.

Since the Law School opened its Law Clinic in 1999, Domestic Violence, Juvenile Law, Small Business, Pro Bono and Veterans Law have been added to the program offerings.

NCCU Law Library houses over 300,000 volumes in print and on microform and has over 400,000 titles, of which 77% are electronic.

2006:

The Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals holds a session of court at the Law School for the first time.

The Biotechnology and Pharmaceutical Law Institute established. The Institute has four major research areas: Biotechnology, Patent Law, Pharmaceutical Regulation, and Bioethics and Technology Transfer.

The Dispute Resolution Institute is established. The only program of its kind in the state, the DRI greatly expands the curriculum, offering courses in negotiation, mediation, arbitration and admits the first students into the Certificate Program.

2007:

The Janice L. Mills Faculty Conference Room is dedicated after law school alumni and friends raise over \$125,000.

In 2007 the North Carolina General Assembly approved a \$4.5 million dollar increase in recurring funds for the Law School. This increased state support was in response to concerns expressed by the American Bar Association regarding sufficient funding to support a program of legal education consistent with standards of accreditation. This increased funding has significantly improved the ability of the Law School to provide a competitive quality program relative to national standards of legal education.

2008:

The DRI awards the first Certificate in Dispute Resolution to Kenya Rogers '08.

1995

2000

2005

PRESENT

2004:

The School of Law moved into the N.C. Mutual Building during the \$9.2 million dollar renovation of the Turner Law Building. The renovation was extensive and added 88,000 square feet to the exiting structure.

2008-2009 showed increased enrollment at NCCU School of Law. The Law School received over 3,000 applications and matriculated 185 students in the Day Program and 37 students in the Evening Program. The Law School Student to Faculty ratio is 20:1. There are 22 states and eight other countries represented in the 2008 entering class. The students range in age from 20-67 with a median age of 27. The entering class is 60% female and 40% male. There are students from over 100 colleges and universities nationwide including UNC-Chapel Hill, North Carolina State Univ., NCCU, East Carolina, UNC-Wilmington, North Carolina A & T, Campbell Univ., UNC-Charlotte, Univ. of VA, Howard Univ., Hampton Univ., Spelman College, UNC-Greensboro, and Georgia State Univ.

NCCU SCHOOL OF LAW

DISTINGUISHED ALUMNI

By national standards, North Carolina Central University's Law School is considered a small law school, yet it has produced more African-American graduates than North Carolina's other law schools. Quite a few of these graduates—as well as graduates of other races—have gone on to earn widespread recognition. Among them are:

Robert Glass graduated in 1951 and later became the first African-American assistant United States attorney in Connecticut. He also served as a judge for juvenile court, superior court and an administrative law judge. In 1987, he became the first NCCU alumnus to sit on a state supreme court and the first African-American justice to sit on the Connecticut Supreme Court.

Floyd McKissick, Sr. graduated in 1951 and went on to become National executive director of the Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). In 1972, he launched Soul City, N.C., the first new town sponsored primarily by African-American enterprise.

Leroy R. Johnson graduated in 1957 and became the first African-American member of the Georgia Senate since reconstruction. He also became the first African-American lawyer in the southeast to be employed on the United States District Attorney's staff in Atlanta, Georgia; the first African-American to head a legislative delegation; and the first African-American to be named chairman of a standing committee in the Georgia General Assembly.

Sammie Chess Jr. graduated in 1958 and became the first African-American Special Superior Court judge in North Carolina.

Clarence C. "Buddy" Malone graduated in 1959 and started the first African-American law firm in Durham. His office became a training ground for many young lawyers graduating from NCCU.

H.M. "Mickey" Michaux, Jr. graduated in 1964 and was the first African-American in the 20th Century to serve as a United States Attorney in the South. NCCU School of Education building was named after Representative Michaux on June 15, 2007.

Maynard Jackson graduated in 1963 and became the first African-American mayor of Atlanta in 1974. At age 35, he became the youngest person to be elected to the office.

Clifton E. Johnson graduated in 1967 he went on to become the first African-American Assistant State Prosecutor for North Carolina since the 19th century (1969); the first African-American District Court judge in North Carolina; the first African-American Chief District Court judge; and the first African-American Resident Superior Court judge for North Carolina. He also became the first African-American to be appointed to the North Carolina Court of Appeals. While serving on the appellate court he rose to the rank of Senior Associate judge and served as the state's first African-American chairman of the North Carolina Judicial Standards Commission.

Wanda G. Bryant graduated in 1982 and was the first woman and African-American assistant district attorney in the 13th prosecutorial district of North Carolina.

Henry W. Oxendine graduated in 1973 and was the first Native-American to graduate from law school in the state of North Carolina. He was sworn in as the eighth judge of the Supreme Court of the Lumbee Tribe in 2006.

Ola Lewis graduated in 1990 and was first woman appointed to a position of Superior Court judge east of Greensboro, North Carolina in 2000.


Frank S. Turner graduated in 1973. In 1990 Turner was the first African-American Judge to serve on the Orphan's Court or any other court in Howard County, Maryland. He was appointed by then Governor William Schaffer. In 1995 he was the first African-American elected to the legislature in Howard County. He has since been re-elected for the past 15 years.

Carol A. Jones graduated in 1994 and was the first woman to be elected as a District Court judge, for the Fourth District, in North Carolina in 2000.

Willie Gary graduated in 1974 and opened the first black law firm in Martin County, Florida in 1975. In 1995, Gary won a verdict of \$500 million, one of the largest jury verdicts in U.S. history.

Brenda G. Branch graduated in 2001 and was the first African-American woman to be appointed to Chief District judge in Halifax County, North Carolina in 2003.

Michael F. Easley graduated in 1976. He became the first NCCU Law School alumnus to serve as attorney general and governor for the State of North Carolina.



ONE OF NORTH CAROLINA'S GREATEST TREASURES IS THE NORTH CAROLINA CENTRAL UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW WHICH HAS IN RECENT YEARS "COME INTO ITS OWN."

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ALLAN B. HEAD
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
NORTH CAROLINA BAR ASSOCIATION



- Cherrelle Bruton '09



WE HAVE COME SO
FAR IN THIS JOURNEY...
THAT HAS, SO FAR, NO
ENDING POINT.



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