

**19TH ANNIVERSARY**  
**SPHINX EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC**  
**THURGOOD MARSHALL SCHOLARSHIP BRUNCH**



**“The Importance of Civic & Community Engagement in America.”**

**11.4.2023**





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# Congratulations & God's Blessings

**Rev. Dr. Benjamin N. Thomas Sr.**

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Historic Tanner Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church

Pastor Thomas, your dedication, service and your commitment to justice, faith, and community is truly inspiring. May your light continue to shine brightly on the path you've chosen.

## Well Done!

The steps of a good man are ordered by the Lord,  
And He delights in his way.

*Psalm 37:23*

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-Thurgood Marshall

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The McClain Family congratulates the Sphinx Educational Fund, Inc. on the 19th Anniversary of its SEF Thurgood Marshall College Fund Brunch.

*Henry McClain, Jr. ~ The shoulders our Family Stands on!*

# Diversity matters.

Troutman Pepper is proud to sponsor the Thurgood Marshall College Fund Brunch and the **Sphinx Educational Fund**.

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# The Star-Spangled Banner



O say, can you see  
By the dawn's early light  
What so proudly we hail'd  
At the twilight's last gleaming?  
Whose broad stripes and bright stars  
Through the perilous fight  
O'er the ramparts we watch'd  
Were so gallantly streaming?  
And the rocket's red glare  
The bombs bursting in air  
Gave proof through the night  
That our flag was still there  
O say, does that star-spangled banner yet wave  
O'er the land of the free  
And the home of the brave



# *Lift Every Voice and Sing*

*Lift every voice and sing  
Till earth and heaven ring,  
Ring with the harmonies of Liberty;  
Let our rejoicing rise  
High as the listening skies,  
Let it resound loud as the rolling sea.  
Sing a song full of the faith that the dark past has taught us,  
Sing a song full of the hope that the present has brought us,  
Facing the rising sun of our new day begun  
Let us march on till victory is won.  
Stony the road we trod,  
Bitter the chastening rod,  
Felt in the days when hope unborn had died;  
Yet with a steady beat,  
Have not our weary feet  
Come to the place for which our fathers sighed?  
We have come over a way that with tears have been watered,  
We have come, treading our path through the blood of the slaughtered,  
Out from the gloomy past,  
Till now we stand at last  
Where the white gleam of our bright star is cast.  
God of our weary years,  
God of our silent tears,  
Thou who has brought us thus far on the way;  
Thou who has by Thy might  
Led us into the light,  
Keep us forever in the path, we pray.  
Lest our feet stray from the places, Our God, where we met Thee;  
Lest, our hearts drunk with the wine of the world, we forget Thee;  
Shadowed beneath Thy hand,  
May we forever stand.  
True to our GOD,  
True to our native land*

Songwriters: J. Rosamon Johnson / James Weldon Johnson



# SPHINX EDUCATIONAL FUND

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[www.SphinxEducationalFund.org](http://www.SphinxEducationalFund.org)



## Thurgood Marshall College Fund Brunch



### SEF Chairman Michael McClain

Greetings Supporters,

On behalf of our Board of Directors, Planning Committee, and the National Thurgood Marshall College Fund, welcome to the 19th Anniversary Sphinx Educational Fund – Thurgood Marshall College Fund Brunch! Our sincere thanks go to our sponsors, the keynote speaker, Desert Willow Conference Center, and all of you attending this year's event. Your support allows our organization to continue the mission toward making a positive impact in Arizona and across the nation.

The Sphinx Educational Fund stands ready to assist our communities through our various programs by addressing education deficits, higher learning opportunities, youth mentorship, and men's health initiatives. None of this could be possible or accomplished without the support of our community and established partnerships.

The economic impact of the past few years coupled with inflation has driven many families into making difficult and sacrificing decisions. The resources that was once available from our government entities continue to dwindle, however, organizations missioned with filling that gap continue to be there for citizens day to day needs. In view of that, this year's theme, "The Importance of Civic and Community Engagement in America" is evermore paramount.

Thank you again to the supporters of the Sphinx Educational Fund, Inc. as we are humbled by your faith in us through your presence here today. We look forward to a fun and informative event, and to seeing you at next year's Brunch!

*Michael McClain*





**City of Phoenix**  
OFFICE OF THE CITY MANAGER

On behalf of the 16,000 City of Phoenix employees and the 1.7 million residents who call Phoenix home, I want to thank the Delta Tau Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated and the Sphinx Educational Fund for their commitment to the regional and local community. Through their combined efforts over the last 19 years, they have made the pursuit of higher education a reality for many young minority men and women throughout the Phoenix Area. As a result of the partnership with the Thurgood Marshall College Fund we see firsthand the direct positive impact you have had on the lives of our youth. However, this impact would not be possible without the charitable contributions from our generous donors. On behalf of Phoenix thanks to all of the event sponsors for their generous donations. Because of your support many dreams have been achieved.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jeff Barton'.

Jeff Barton  
City Manager  
City of Phoenix  
Member Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Incorporated



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## Thurgood Marshall College Fund Brunch

### AGENDA

Master of Ceremonies	Marquis Scott Grand Canyon University
Invocation	Rev. Benjamin Thomas, Jr. Bethel AME Church
National Anthems	Compilation of Various Artists
Words of Greetings	Sphinx Education Fund Thurgood Marshall College Fund Alpha Phi Alpha Western Region Delta Tau Lambda Chapter
Breakfast is Served	Music & Networking
Presentation of Thurgood Marshall Award South Mountain Community College	Ralph Thompson, II
Award of Merit Honorees –	Rev. Dr. Benjamin Thomas, Sr. Roy Tatem
Introduction of Keynote Speaker	Dondrell Swanson State Farm Insurance
Keynote Speaker	Milton C. Davis, Esq
Question & Answer Session	Facilitator: Nathan Cabbil Founder & Organizer Integro Bank
Dr. Eugene & Mrs. Thomasena Grigsby Scholarship Recipients	Rev. Gerald Richard, SEF, Scholarship Committee
Closing Remarks	Michael McClain, Fin. Investigator State of Arizona Marquis Scott, M.Ed. Grand Canyon University



# MENU

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### Keynote Speaker Milton Carter Davis

A Tuskegee, Alabama, native and Tuskegee University alumnus, Milton C. Davis has enjoyed a legal career spanning service in the military, public and private sectors.

After completing a bachelor's degree in political science at Tuskegee in 1971, Davis earned his Juris Doctor degree from University of Iowa's College of Law in 1974. During his collegiate years, he earned distinction as an American Political Science Foundation graduate fellow, a Ford Foundation graduate fellow, a Herbert Lehman Foundation International Scholar and a Distinguished Air Force ROTC graduate. During his law school studies, he excelled in oral advocacy and was named to the Senior Moot Court Board.

Davis' career achievements include being among the first African-Americans in Alabama to be appointed a state assistant attorney general. He received nationwide acclaim for his role in securing the full pardon for Clarence Norris, the last known surviving "Scottsboro Boy" on the basis of innocence. In 1977, Davis returned to Tuskegee to begin his private legal practice. His career highlights also include 25 years of service in the U.S. Air Force Reserves Judge Advocate General Corps through which he ultimately attained the rank of lieutenant colonel, as well as teaching business courses as an adjunct professor at Tuskegee University's College of Business.

Outside his professional responsibilities, Davis served for eight years as a member of the Alabama State Board of Bar Examiners, in addition to serving on numerous committees of the Alabama State Bar Association and as president of the Macon County Bar Association. He is a life fellow of the Alabama Law Foundation, a member of the Lawyers' Advisory Committee for the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Alabama, and a former member of the Lawyers' Advisory Committee for the U.S. Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals.

Currently, Davis serves on the board of directors of the Central Alabama Community Foundation, which oversees the distribution of millions of dollars to charitable and nonprofit organizations throughout southeast Alabama. He is a former board member of Leadership Alabama, a distinguished network of Alabama leaders, and a board member for and vice president of the Lionel Richie





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## Thurgood Marshall College Fund Brunch

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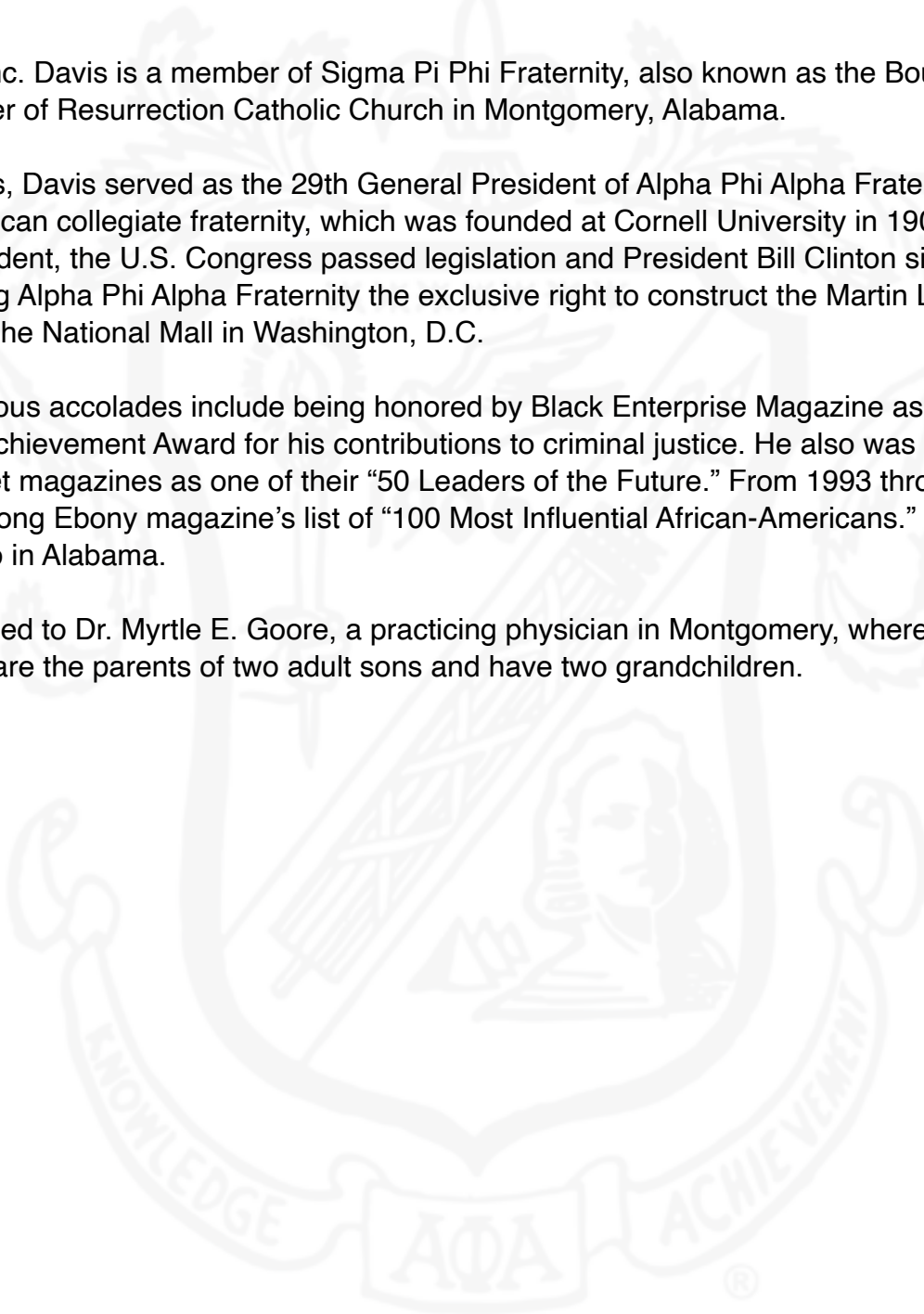
### Milton Carter Davis

Foundation Inc. Davis is a member of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, also known as the Boulé. He is an active member of Resurrection Catholic Church in Montgomery, Alabama.

For four years, Davis served as the 29th General President of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity — the first African-American collegiate fraternity, which was founded at Cornell University in 1906. During his term as President, the U.S. Congress passed legislation and President Bill Clinton signed into law the bill authorizing Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity the exclusive right to construct the Martin Luther King Jr. Memorial on the National Mall in Washington, D.C.

Davis' numerous accolades include being honored by Black Enterprise Magazine as the recipient of its National Achievement Award for his contributions to criminal justice. He also was recognized by Ebony and Jet magazines as one of their "50 Leaders of the Future." From 1993 through 1996, Davis appeared among Ebony magazine's list of "100 Most Influential African-Americans." He also is listed in Who's Who in Alabama.

Davis is married to Dr. Myrtle E. Goore, a practicing physician in Montgomery, where the couple reside. They are the parents of two adult sons and have two grandchildren.





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## The Award of Merit Reverend Dr. Benjamin N. Thomas Sr.

Reverend Dr. Benjamin N. Thomas Sr. was raised and educated in Kansas City, Missouri. Reverend Thomas entered into the United States Army in 1970 and was commissioned as an officer in 1980, serving as Chaplain in the Army Reserves until 1993. He has special training in clinical pastoral counseling, patient visitation, crisis intervention, and church administration. He is the current pastor of Historic Tanner Chapel African Methodist Episcopal Church, Phoenix, AZ, since 1991. Reverend Thomas is a dedicated family man, married to Beverly K. Thomas.

They have one child, Rev. Benjamin Jr., "Rev. BJ," who is a graduate of Southern University in Baton Rouge, LA., and is currently serving as the pastor of Bethel A.M.E. Church in Oxnard, CA. Rev. & Mrs. Thomas also have three grandchildren, Samara Jean, Benjamin Nathaniel III, and Bryson Jerome.

### Education

Reverend Thomas earned his Associate's degree in Psychology from Penn Valley Community College in Kansas City, MO., and his Bachelor's degree in Business Administration with a minor in Psychology from Parks College, Parkville, MO.

Reverend Thomas began his theological studies at Claremont School of Theology in Claremont, CA., in their DMIN program. He later transferred to Asbury Theological Seminary in Kentucky and completed three years of study through the Beeson Institute for Advanced Church Leadership.

Reverend Thomas received an honorary Doctorate degree from Southern California School of Ministry in Los Angeles, CA.

### Ministerial Experience

Prior to moving to Phoenix, Arizona in 1991, to become the pastor of Tanner Chapel African Methodist Episcopal (A.M.E.) Church, Reverend Thomas served as the pastor of Price Chapel A.M.E. Church in Los Angeles, CA., Walker Chapel A.M.E. Church in Seattle, WA., and Handy Chapel A.M.E. Church in Joplin, MO. Currently, Reverend Thomas is serving as the Senior Minister and Pastor for Historic Tanner Chapel A.M.E. Church, Phoenix, AZ.

### Church and Community Involvement

During his six (6) years pastoring at Price Chapel A.M.E. Church, Reverend Thomas was actively involved in the community serving on the Board of Directors for such organizations as Emergency Feeding Program, The

## Reverend Dr. Benjamin N. Thomas Sr.

Inner City Foundation of Excellence in Education, the NAACP (Reverend Thomas is a Life Member), and as the President of the Southern California Conference Ministerial Alliance.

In addition, since pastoring from 1991 to present, at Historic Tanner, Pastor Thomas has been dedicated to not only his church and church family, but to the community as well. This has afforded him the opportunity to serve his church and community at large.

### **Currently Pastor Thomas serves as:**

- Dean of Instruction for the Desert I Mountain Conference Board of Examiners
- Treasurer for the Desert I Mountain Conference of the African Methodist Episcopal Church
- Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of the Board of Directors for Tanner Community Development Corporation (TCDC). Pastor Thomas founded TCDC in 2000.

### **Dr. Thomas also serves on:**

- Mayor Kate Gallego's Advisory Board for Phoenix, Arizona; Mayor Gallego's African-American Task Force.
- Arizona Attorney General African-American Advisory Board

### **Dr. Thomas is a member of the following organizations:**

- NAACP Life Member
- Faith Opportunity Zone Faith Initiative (FOZ)
- Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.

### **Dr. Thomas' previous areas of service include:**

- Arizona Department of Economic Security Board of Directors (4yrs)
- Central Arizona Shelter Service (CASS) Board of Directors (4yrs)
- Fifth District Economic Development Board of the African Methodist Episcopal Church (12yrs)
- General Board for the Connectional African Methodist Episcopal Church (12yrs)
- NAACP Executive Board (4yrs)
- National Advisory Board of Directors for Chase Bank (4yrs)
- Chair of the Arizona Commission on African-American Affairs for the State of Arizona
- Co-Chair of the African-American Christian Clergy Coalition

### **Dr. Thomas' success as a pastor and community leader has been very rewarding personally and professionally. He has been the recipient of several awards. A few are listed below:**

- 2016 Arizona Informant Newsmaker Award
- 2012 Whitney M. Young Jr. Service Award
- 2007 Positive Images Sports Saving a Generation Award
- 2006 Martin Luther King Living the Dream Award
- 2005 | 2006 Pastor of the Year Award from the Desert I Mountain Conference of the African Methodist

### **Episcopal Church**

- J.W. Robinson Society United Black Firefighter Community Award and
- NAACP Millennium Pacesetters Award





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## The Award of Merit Roy M. Tatem, Jr.

Roy M. Tatem Jr. is a renowned community leader, political activist, and entrepreneur originally hailing from Virginia Beach, Virginia. In January 1999, Roy landed a coveted job on Capitol Hill as a staffer for Senator Chuck Robb (D-VA), working in constituent services and assisting Virginia residents in their concerns about proposed policy and legislation impacting our nation. Roy worked on key issues pertinent to the Senator's priorities for Virginia and his constituents, such as public safety, gun control, women's rights, education, and veterans affairs.

### A Talented Businessman

At the same time, Roy pursued a business opportunity with LegalShield, which provides legal service plans and identity theft services. With LegalShield, Roy was recognized in 2005 as one of the youngest Executives to achieve the coveted six-figure ring, which simply means that his personal and team sales earned him over \$100,000.00 in commissions in a 12-month time frame. This unique chance furnished him with the means and the freedom to become active and productive in his community by working as a community organizer.

### Community Organizing Extraordinaire

Roy began his community organizing journey as a college student in 1996. He made it his mission to work on political campaigns that would have the greatest impact on his community. He became a sensation in local races and captured the attention of several presidential candidates, serving as the Grassroots Coordinator for Hampton Roads for Barack Obama in 2008 and as the Deputy Director for African American Outreach for Bernie Sanders in 2016.

### Vanguard Strategies and Consulting LLC

Today, Roy is the principal of Vanguard Strategies and Consulting, LLC, which he established in 2016. His firm provides strategic marketing and campaign solutions to political candidates, social movements, and businesses. Vanguard's clients range from elected officials and those aspiring to become elected officials to socially conscious organizations and media groups working to educate and engage the community around a specific issue.



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## Thurgood Marshall College Fund Brunch

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### Roy M. Tatem, Jr.

#### Altruism at Its Best

Roy is passionate about empowering communities and addressing social justice issues. Consequently, he has remained very active with several community and civic organizations. He held multiple leadership roles in his fraternity, Alpha Phi Alpha, including president of his collegiate chapter, Beta Gamma, at Virginia State and president of the Delta Tau Lambda Chapter in Phoenix, AZ. His leadership allowed the chapter to compete for National Chapter of the Year in 2015. Roy also served as the president of the East Valley NAACP from 2016-2020; Roy's political success and experience have allowed him to serve as a national delegate to the Democratic National Convention and was the former Senior Political Director for Our Voice, Our Vote Arizona.

#### Qualifications and Accolades

Roy has held many professional political positions and appointments that are as diverse as they are impressive. He served as Special Advisor to the Mayor and City Council in Tempe, AZ. He serves on Colonel Jeff Glover's Advisory Council to the Arizona Department of Public Safety and Sheriff Penzone's African American Advisory Committee. Roy is a respected member of the City of Tempe African American Advisory Committee and is a former Commissioner on Tempe's Census Complete Count Committee. Roy is a lifelong member of the National Urban League and received recognition as one of the Top 10 Young Professional Leaders at their 2017 national convention. In 2019, Roy was accepted into the Race, Equity, and Leadership in Schools Institute at Harvard Graduate School of Education.

#### An Accomplished Graduate

Roy is a proud 1998 graduate of the historic Virginia State University, completing a degree in Political Science with a minor in Philosophy. In 2021, Roy completed his graduate studies at Arizona State University, earning his Master's Degree in Integrated Social Sciences, where he concentrated his studies on public safety and social services; his Master's Thesis was entitled: Social Work Policing: An embedded autonomous model.

He resides in Chandler, Arizona, with his wife, Keisha, his nieces, Tamia, Bryanna, and Jordan, and the amazing memory of his daughter Madison (deceased).

# Thank You!

The Sphinx Educational Fund and Thurgood Marshall College Fund would like to thank our sponsors for the 19th Anniversary SEF TMCF Scholarship Brunch Celebration.

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*Thank You*

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AND THE

**Sphinx Educational Fund**

*For All That You Do to  
Empower Our Community and  
For Your Love and Support  
During Our Golden Anniversary Celebration*

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## Thurgood Marshall College Fund Brunch

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### 2023 Sphinx Educational Fund Scholarship Awardees



#### **Keyshon Reed**

Graduate of Estrella Foothills High School  
Now Attending Estrella Mountain Community College  
Majoring in Computer Science



#### **Samuel Ford**

Graduate of Perry High School  
Now Attending The University of Maryland College Park  
Majoring in Journalism



#### **Malik Barton**

Graduate of Basha High School  
Now Attending Howard University  
Majoring in Architecture



#### **Larenz Harris**

Graduate of Desert Ridge High School  
Now Attending Morehouse College  
Majoring in Political Science



*RFJ*

RACHEL FRAZIER JOHNSON LAW

Best wishes to the **Sphinx Educational Fund, Inc.'s** and the **Thurgood Marshall College Fund's** successful fundraiser and the celebration of their 19th Anniversary Thurgood Marshall College Fund Brunch!



**Rachel Frazier Johnson, Esq.**  
*Attorney*

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