Attorney Paul Titus to be Honored with ‘Drum Major for Justice’ Award at Martin Luther King Day Event

Titus Organizes Legal Education Program in African-American Communities

PITTSBURGH – For decades, attorney Paul Titus has worked tirelessly behind the scenes, donating his time to help Pittsburgh-area youth in predominantly African-American communities gain hands-on experience in the legal field. Titus, a resident of Pittsburgh’s East End, will be recognized for these efforts when he receives the Allegheny County Bar Association Homer S. Brown Division’s “Drum Major for Justice Award.”

Titus will receive the award at the ACBA’s 19th Annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Prayer Breakfast and Program on Monday, Jan. 15, at Ebenezer Baptist Church in Pittsburgh’s Hill District.

“Fundamentally, our legal system is about justice, and one area in which we have failed over the years and are working to overcome injustice is in the area of civil rights,” he said. “Our legal system wants to see all people treated fairly, regardless of their race, gender or who they are.”

Throughout his career, Titus has taken it upon himself to pursue equal justice for all. In his work as an attorney at the law firm of Schader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis, Titus handles a broad range of legal issues, with a focus on complex business matters. Additionally, he has dedicated countless volunteer hours taking on pro bono cases, fighting for civil rights and, most notably, working with children.

Twenty years ago, he was asked by his parish priest, The Rev. David Taylor, to teach children at Homewood’s Holy Rosary School about the legal system. Titus developed an annual legal education program – including a mock trial – for eighth grade children; he still conducts the program today at Sister Thea Bowman Catholic Academy (which was formed from the merger of Holy Rosary and Wilkinsburg’s St. James School).

Titus has recruited many other attorneys to serve as trial coaches, and the mock trials have been presided over by actual judges, including The Hon. Livingstone Johnson, Kim Berkeley Clark and Dwayne Woodruff.

Additionally, each spring, Titus organizes and funds a legal-themed field trip for the students. In prior years, the trips were to Washington, D.C. and included visits to the U.S. Supreme Court, the House of Representatives and the Senate. Today, he takes the students to Harrisburg for a visit to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, the Pennsylvania State Capitol and more.

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Titus is active in various Allegheny County Bar Foundation pro bono programs and is a member of his firm’s Pro Bono Committee.

A native of Bradford, Pa., he attended St. Bonaventure College and the University of Notre Dame Law School. He and his wife of 60 years, Bonnie, have lived in Pittsburgh since 1961. They have three adult children and two grandchildren.

About the Prayer Breakfast

One of the biggest Martin Luther King Day Jr. celebrations in the Pittsburgh region, the ACBA event will be held at Ebenezer Baptist Church, 2001 Wylie Ave. in Pittsburgh’s Hill District neighborhood. The program begins with a buffet breakfast at 7:30 a.m., followed by a prayer program and award ceremony at 8:30 a.m.

The annual celebration commemorates the life of Dr. King and his contributions that led to changes in the law and social justice. Numerous dignitaries from throughout the Pittsburgh legal community and the community at large will be on hand to remember the noble work of Dr. King. In addition to Titus, former Federal Judge Timothy Lewis (now an attorney at Schnader, Harrison, Segal & Lewis) Allegheny County Executive Rich Fitzgerald are among those scheduled to speak.

The event includes moving speeches and a stirring musical performance. Among the event’s highlights is the presentation of the Drum Major for Justice Award to an individual who perpetuates Dr. King’s convictions “to make justice, equality and opportunity a reality for all people.” The award’s name comes from Dr. King’s Drum Major Instinct sermon, during which he said, “If you want to say that I was a drum major, say I was a drum major for justice. Say that I was a drum major for peace. I was a drum major for righteousness.”

The event is free and open to the public. For more information, visit www.ACBA.org

MEDIA INFORMATION

The event includes numerous photo and interview opportunities. Please make arrangements in advance by contacting Brian Knavish, ACBA Director of Marketing and Media Relations, at 412-901-5955 or bknavish@acba.org

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About the ACBA

Chartered in 1870 and headquartered in downtown Pittsburgh, the Allegheny County Bar Association is a professional organization with 6,000 member attorneys, judges, district justices, legal administrators and paralegals.