



## **Carl Maxey Receives WSBA Courageous Award**

*Washington native and African-American attorney recognized for pioneering civil rights work*

SEATTLE, WA [Sept. 27, 2013] — The Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) presented Spokane attorney **Carl Maxey** posthumously with the 2013 Courageous Award. The award is in recognition of over four decades of service to civil-rights and access to justice issues. WSBA President **Michele Radosevich** presented the award to Mr. Maxey's son, Bevan Maxey, at the WSBA Annual Awards Dinner on Sept. 26, 2013, at the Grand Hyatt Seattle.

Born in Tacoma, Maxey was adopted as an infant and orphaned at the age of two; he lived at a Spokane orphanage until age 12, when the orphanage adopted a ban against black children and expelled him. He found shelter at the Spokane Juvenile Home, where a Jesuit priest transferred Maxey to an Indian mission school in Idaho. Maxey attended Gonzaga Preparatory School, then joined the Army and served as a medic in a segregated unit.

Maxey saw law as a way to prompt social change; he was one of Gonzaga University School of Law's first African-American graduates, and he became its first African-American graduate to pass the Washington state bar exam. Over the course of a 40-year career, Maxey became Eastern Washington's most renowned lawyer on civil-rights, anti-war, and free-expression issues. In the 1950s, he debated James S. Black, president of the Washington Association of Realtors, several times on the issue of housing segregation. In 1964, Maxey traveled to Mississippi to campaign against segregation and advance civil rights. Over the years, his work led to recognition of the rights of black citizens to teach in public schools, to live in any neighborhood, to patronize restaurants and bars, to join social clubs, and to be served at local businesses. He defended the "Seattle 7," a group of activists accused of conspiring to destroy public property and overthrow the government in protest of the Vietnam War.

Maxey was also active in politics and public service. He ran in 1970 as the anti-war candidate opposing Henry "Scoop" Jackson, in an unsuccessful but widely admired campaign. He was a Democratic Party convention delegate in 1998 for Rev. Jesse Jackson. He was a co-founder of the Loren Miller Bar Association, and was considered for appointment to the Washington State Supreme Court. In his later years, Maxey received many honors and awards for his work, including the Charles A. Goldmark Distinguished Service Award, recognizing his dedication and unrelenting efforts on behalf of access to justice.

"In 1997, Maxey left his family, his community, and our state bar association too soon," said King County Bar Association President **Richard E. Mitchell**. "The force of his character, the skill of his lawyering and his willingness to lead in the breach, his courage in life and work is unquestioned."

### **About the WSBA Courageous Award**

This award is presented to an individual who has displayed exceptional courage in the face of adversity, thus bringing credit to the legal profession.

### **About the Washington State Bar Association**

The WSBA is part of the judicial branch and is authorized by the Washington State Supreme Court to license the state's 35,400 lawyers. The WSBA both regulates lawyers under the authority of the Court and serves its members as a professional association — all without public funding. The WSBA's mission is to serve the public and the members of the Bar, ensure the integrity of the legal profession, and to champion justice.

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