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Take a look at almost any newspaper and you’ll discover that the headlines are discouraging, to say the least: “More black men in prison today than enslaved in 1850.” “White males live 5.5 more years longer than black males.” “The number of black men in college dwindles.” Even with the election of an African American president, glimmers of a brighter outlook seem to be inundated by the onslaught of negative perceptions, deferred dreams and invisible barriers that exist nonetheless.

Yet, there is hope. And the Atlanta Business League is pleased and honored to present that ray of hope through this publication. Herein, you will find profiles of 24 of Atlanta’s most distinguished gentlemen. They are business owners, corporate and nonprofit executives, civic and community activists and elected officials. Even more personally, they are fathers, husbands, mentors and friends. In essence, they are leaders and positive role models that have laid --- and continue to lay --- a firm foundation upon future generations to build. We don’t take the contributions of those featured in this publication for granted. The Atlanta Business League believes in the adage that states, “What they can see, they can be.”

In addition to the men who are featured, we are also delighted to induct two very outstanding men into our Legends Hall of Fame. Rev. Jasper Williams is a longtime warrior in Atlanta’s faith community who has been preaching since the young age of 19. He has been appropriately nicknamed “Son of Thunder,” and clearly displays the evidence through life changing messages. Judge Clarence Cooper is a native son who has risen to the rank of Senior Judge for the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Georgia. Hailing from Atlanta’s Edgewood/Kirkwood community, he has sparked international attention for providing over some of this country’s most highly publicized and controversial cases. Both men exemplify the heart of what this publication and the Men of Influence Ceremony are all about.

Read and be inspired!

Foreword

Leona Barr-Davenport
President & CEO
Atlanta Business League

Thomas W. Dortch, Jr.
ABL Board Chairman
For many years, the Atlanta Business League (ABL) has recognized business owners, professionals, community and civic leaders in metropolitan Atlanta. Again this year, the ABL is pleased to publish its list of Atlanta’s Influential Black Men for 2008. The list will be published, and the honorees will be acknowledged, during a special pinning ceremony and reception.

The Men of Influence list reflects the names of black men in metro Atlanta communities who have reached senior level positions within their profession, are leading entrepreneurs in their industry, have proven history-making feats or have attained the ability to influence large public bodies politically and in government. In addition to professional accomplishments, the Men of Influence have demonstrated their commitment to the citizenry of metro Atlanta by maintaining significant involvement and participation in community and civic activities.

In addition to naming Atlanta’s Men of Influence for 2008, this year ABL will induct three deserving men into the Legends Hall of Fame, which includes male pioneers who have paved the way for others to follow in their respective arenas. The Legacy Award will also be presented to one legend whose efforts, good deeds and impact will outlast the test of time and positively impact the community for generations to come.

Our goal is to provide an educational opportunity for individuals at all levels from middle school to corporate America to meet and interact with men in leading and history making positions throughout metro Atlanta. For many, it is a source of hope displaying living examples and an enlightening experience to know that opportunities avail themselves for African-American men. The ABL believes that it is our responsibility to include this effort as a part of our information clearinghouse initiative.
The Atlanta Business League was established in 1933 as an affiliate of the National Business League which was founded by Dr. Booker T. Washington.

In 1900, this economic pioneer conceived and developed a broad-based structure for business enterprise more innovative than this nation had ever seen, predating the creation of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce by twelve years. The National Business League was committed from its inception to a strong comprehensive program of self-help and self-sufficiency. The mission of the National Business League was to enhance and expand the business community at large, to encourage civic pride, and to reinvest community money within the community.

The Atlanta Business League was formed on the same premise. Serving the role as minority business developer and advocate, the Atlanta Business League seeks to provide economic empowerment and business development opportunities for minorities throughout the metropolitan Atlanta area with specific emphasis on the development of African-American businesses.

Since its inception, the Atlanta Business League has implemented many programs and initiatives. The League has caused the development of relationships which have translated into millions of dollars in revenue generated; and hundreds of new businesses started. Through the Atlanta Business League and the businesses it serves, the quality of life and our community is greatly enriched.

The Atlanta Business League is a strong force for positive growth in Atlanta. It serves as one voice for many small business persons, using their collective power to influence the course of events politically and socially at all levels including government, business and civic communities. As challenges present themselves to the entrepreneur, the Atlanta Business League continues to meet them head on.
MISSION

The Atlanta Business League fosters the growth, creation and development of successful business enterprises owned, operated and managed by African-Americans in metropolitan Atlanta.

GOALS

• To implement programs which promote increased access to business opportunities and capital.
• To encourage the support and patronage of businesses owned by African-Americans.
• To implement programs which promote the development of African-American business and entrepreneurship.
• To develop and implement initiatives that support African-American businesses.

BENEFITS

• Affiliation with a professional minority business development organization that advocates on behalf of minority businesses.
• Business or individual listing in the ABL Annual Membership Directory
• Business referrals for technical assistance
• Networking opportunities and expansion of business resource and contact base during Business Power Forums and special events.
• Quarterly NewsExchange with information for and about member businesses.
• Educational training opportunities for business owners and staff.
• Access to information clearinghouse
• Marketing of member businesses via the ABL Web Site
Hamilton Earl Holmes, Sr. was born on July 8, 1941, in Atlanta Georgia to Isabella Campfield Holmes and Alfred Fountain Holmes. He was named for his grandfather, Dr. Hamilton Mayo Holmes, a physician in Atlanta.

Early in life, Hamilton decided he wanted to become a doctor. He attended Atlanta Public Schools, graduating in 1959 from Henry McNeal Turner High School, where he was captain of the football team, senior class president and valedictorian of his class.

He continued his education at Morehouse College, where he became a student of Dr. Benjamin E. Mays, who had a profound influence on his life. At Morehouse, he excelled academically, played on the football team, and developed a life long affiliation with the Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity.

On January 6, 1961, Hamilton Holmes and Charlayne Hunter-Gault became the first black students to enter the University of Georgia. While at UGA, he was elected to Phi Beta Kappa and earned other academic honors, and in 1963, graduated cum laude, with a Bachelor of Science degree.

He then became the first African American student at Emory University Medical School, graduating with honors in 1967.

His professional career was long and distinguished. He served as a physician in the US Army in Germany, was on the staff at Emory University, and maintained a private practice. In 1988, he was appointed medical director at Grady Memorial Hospital, where he served until 1995.

He received many awards and medals honoring his achievements, including The University of Georgia Bi-Centennial Medal and The Emory University Medal.

Hamilton was married to Marilyn Vincent Holmes of Detroit Michigan, and was the father of Hamilton, Jr. and Alison Holmes Johnson.

Dr. Hamilton E. Holmes died on October 26, 1995. His efforts and contributions continue to inspire others toward greater opportunities.
Legacy Recognition

These men have all left a mark and their footprints are still being used to create the Atlanta we know today.

THE HONORABLE MAYNARD HOLBROOKS JACKSON, JR.
2007 Legacy
(1938 – 2003)

ALONZO FRANKLIN HERNDON
2010 Legacy
(1858 - 1927)

DR. BENJAMIN ELIJAH MAYS
2008 Legacy
(1894 – 1984)

NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE BRONNER, SR.
2009 Legacy
(1914 - 1993)

ALONZO FRANKLIN HERNDON
2010 Legacy
(1858 - 1927)
The Honorable Clarence Cooper was born in Decatur, Georgia, on May 5, 1942 to Herman & Hazel Cooper and reared in the Edgewood/Kirkwood area of Atlanta. Judge Clarence Cooper is a product of David T. Howard High School and a 1964 honors graduate of Clark College, where he majored in Political Science and History.

In 1967, Judge Cooper was awarded a Doctor of Law Degree from Emory University School of Law, and has since been an active, innovative member of the Bar.

In 1976, Judge Cooper, who had already begun his legal career as a jurist, took a sabbatical from the City Bench to accept a fellowship to study at both Harvard University and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. While attending both of these eastern institutions of higher learning, Judge Cooper was awarded a Master’s Degree in Public Administration from Harvard University and a Diploma from M.I.T. for a research paper and project on the “Judiciary and Its Budget.”

Judge Cooper has held numerous jobs within the legal profession. Shortly after his graduation from law school, he was hired by the Atlanta Legal Aid Society. He achieved a significant milestone in his legal career when, in 1968, he was hired by the Fulton County District Attorney’s Office as an Assistant District Attorney. In 1975, he was appointed to the City of Atlanta’s Municipal court bench by the Mayor of the City. In 1980, Judge Cooper displayed his political knowledge and skill by successfully winning a seat on the Fulton County Superior Court Bench.

Judge Cooper was the first African-American appointed to a full-time judgeship on the Atlanta Municipal Court and the first African-American ever elected to a county-wide judgeship on the Fulton Superior Court. He was also the first African American assistant district attorney hired to a State Prosecutor’s office in Georgia in 1968.

Judge Cooper has held memberships on many outstanding civic boards and organizations, locally, nationally, and internationally. In 1986, as a member of the Friendship Force, Inc., (an international board) Judge Cooper led a delegation of Georgians on a historic mission to the Soviet Union. While in the Soviet Union, the members of Judge Cooper’s delegation became the first Americans to live in the homes of ordinary Russian citizens.

In connection with the 1987 Bicentennial Celebration, Judge Cooper was chosen to participate in a historic panel discussion on the First Amendment and its application to a fair trial/free press. This panel discussion was taped and aired on C-SPAN.
As a trial court judge, Judge Cooper is well-respected and has been the recipient of many accolades in recognition of his outstanding judicial ability and temperament. He has presided over many highly-publicized, controversial cases, one of which drew world-wide attention just a few years ago when he was the presiding Judge in the trial of convicted Atlanta child murderer, Wayne Williams, for serial killings that occurred in 1979 through 1981.

In February 1990, Judge Cooper was appointed by Governor Joe Frank Harris to fill a vacancy on the Georgia Court of Appeals and a few months later, ran a successful campaign and was elected statewide to retain that seat for a six-year term beginning January 1991.

On the recommendation of U.S. Senator Zell Miller, Judge Cooper was nominated by President Bill Clinton on March 9, 1994 to a seat vacated by Richard Freeman. He was confirmed by the Senate on May 6, 1994 on a Senate vote and received commission on May 9, 1994. Cooper assumed senior status on February 9, 2009.

Throughout his life Judge Cooper has received many honors including National Black Prosecutor’s Association Trailblazer Award, National Black College Hall of Fame, Gate City Bar Hall of Fame, Intergenerational Resource Council Pathfinder Award, National Bar Association Hall of Fame, 2010 Trumpet Awards and the Atlanta Bar Association Leadership Award.

He is married to the former Shirley Elder and they have two children.
Jasper W. Williams, Jr., a nationally known, prominent Baptist minister was born July 22, 1943 in Memphis, TN, the first of four children to the late Rev. Jasper Williams, Sr. and Alice Stewart Williams. He grew up in Memphis where his father was Pastor of the Lane Avenue Baptist Church. Jasper Williams, Jr. was raised in a very religious and family-oriented home environment with strong moral values. He was converted at the tender age of six, acknowledging his call to the ministry and began preaching the Gospel.

A product of the public school system in Memphis, TN, Jasper Williams, Jr. graduated in 1961 from Melrose High School, where he excelled scholastically. He entered Morehouse College, majoring in Sociology with a minor in Religion, graduating in 1972.

Jasper Williams was a young man of 19 years on Easter Sunday, 1963, when he was invited to preach at Salem Bible Church on Martin Street. He delivered a sermon so eloquent and so anointed that it touched the hearts and minds of the entire congregation. Subsequently, his initial plans of returning home as the Associate Pastor of his father’s church was interrupted as he accepted the Call to pastor Salem in November 1963. With his gift as an electrifying orator, he quickly earned the name “Son of Thunder.” In a short time, he tripled the membership and built a large new brick sanctuary, moving the present church to Baker Road. This was an astonishing accomplishment that brought him state-wide attention. He has given this institution 40 years of outstanding service. Pastor Williams has made it one of the key churches in the growing Baptist network. His priority as head of the church was its expansion through evangelism and ministry. He involved the church in a wide variety of social action ministries, such as organizing a Christian Education Department, a Welfare Assistance program, temporary aid fund to assist the socially challenged, a scholarship fund, and in 1989 a National Drug Ministry 1-800-4-GOD 1st.

In 1997, Salem purchased 163 acres of land in Lithonia, GA, where a transitional church opened in 1998. On November 9, 2003 Pastor Williams led the grand entrance into the permanent church on Hillandale Drive. The vision of Pastor Williams is to develop a community consisting of single family homes, apartments, condominiums, a family life center and commercial and recreational sites with the second location of the church at the center of the complex. Since the union of the two churches on Easter Sunday, 1998 Salem is now “One Church in Two Locations”, with a membership of 10,000+. In addition Pastor Williams has spearheaded projects for senior citizens housing receiving grants totaling 5.6 million dollars for Phase I and Phase II of the Alice S. Williams Towers.

He is the recipient of many awards and honors, such as the Rev. C.L. Franklin Masters Award, the NAACP award, the Award of Excellence, given by the Gospel Music Workshop of America, and the Martin Luther King Humanitarian Award. He
holds Honorary Doctorate of Divinity degrees from Miller University and Temple Bible College and Seminary.

Pastor Williams has served on the Boards of numerous community, religious and service organizations, including the Mayor's Advisory Board (Atlanta), Advisor for Governor Zell Miller, a member of the Board of Directors for the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC), Member of the Board of Directors for the General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc., and the National Baptist Convention, USA, Inc. Until recently, he chaired the “Late Night Services” of the National Baptist Convention USA, Inc., a position he held for 12 years. Rev. Williams gained a high public profile when he relinquished this title and became the “voice of the people”. He captured the organization’s imagination as he spoke authoritatively with extraordinary abilities about the relations of Christian consciousness to social evils, “A man with a heart for the people!” He expounded on issues needed to strengthen the organization by advocating strong support of establishing programs in every state that would aid victims of natural disasters, and a retirement pension program for aged ministers.

Pastor Williams is highly regarded for his abilities as a thinker, theologian and philosopher. Through his many years of ministry, he has always shown himself to be a humanitarian, concerned about the “least of these.” Of the variety of images that come to mind when one mentions the name Jasper Williams, Jr., the only one that truly would do justice to the whole of his person is simply the word “servant”.

Jasper Williams, Jr., is a devoted father of two sons, Rev. Joseph Williams, who serves as Pastor of Salem Bible Church and Rev. Jasper Williams, III.
In Memoriam

It is not what you keep, but what you give that makes you happy. We make our living by what we get. We make our life by what we give.

- Dr. Benjamin Elijah Mays

CHARLES A. MATHIS, JR.
Principal
Mathis Law Firm
(1954 - 2011)
2010 Legends Hall of Fame

LEON GOODRUM
Owner/Operator
Goodrum Enterprises, Inc./McDonald’s

HANK THOMAS
CEO
Victoria Hospitality Properties LLC

2009 Legends Hall of Fame

NATHANIEL R. GOLDSTON, III
Founder
Gourmet Services, Inc.

REVEREND DR. WALTER L. KIMBROUGH
Retired Senior Pastor
Cascade United Methodist Church

WILLIAM “SONNY” WALKER
Founder & Principal
The Sonny Walker Group
2008 Legends Hall of Fame

REVEREND DR. CAMERON M. ALEXANDER
President Emeritus
General Missionary Baptist Convention of Georgia, Inc.

JAMES V. PASCHAL
Founder & Owner
Paschal Brothers/
Paschal Concessions, Inc.

SENATOR LEROY R. JOHNSON
Partner
Leroy R. Johnson & Associates, P.C.

2007 Legends Hall of Fame

HENRY “HANK” AARON
Senior Vice President
Atlanta National League Baseball Club, Inc.
Owner, Hank Aaron Toyota

THE HONORABLE ROBERT BENHAM
Justice
Supreme Court of Georgia
2007 Legends Hall of Fame

JESSE HILL, JR.
Retired Chairman & CEO
Atlanta Life Insurance Company

THE HONORABLE
JOHN LEWIS
Representative, Georgia's 5th Congressional District
U.S. House of Representatives

REVEREND DR. JOSEPH E. LOWERY
Convenor, Coalition for The Peoples’ Agenda;
Chairman Emeritus, Black Leadership Forum, Inc.; Co-founder, President Emeritus,
Southern Christian Leadership Conference

HERMAN J. RUSSELL
Chairman
H.J. Russell & Company

DAVID SATCHER, M.D., PH.D.
Director, Center of Excellence on Health Disparities
Morehouse School of Medicine

LOUIS W. SULLIVAN, M.D.
President Emeritus
Morehouse School of Medicine
2007 Legends Hall of Fame

REVEREND C. T. VIVIAN
Civil Rights Leader and Educator

FELKER WARD, JR.
Principal
Investment Advisors, LLC

THE HONORABLE
HORACE T. WARD
Senior Judge
United States District Court

THE HONORABLE
ANDREW YOUNG
Chairman
GoodWorks International
Neil Barclay is the President and CEO of the National Black Arts Festival (NBAF). NBAF is an Atlanta, GA, 501 (c) (3) nonprofit organization designed to engage, cultivate and educate diverse audiences about the arts and culture of Africa and African Diaspora.

Mr. Barclay was the Founding President and CEO of the August Wilson Center for African American Culture in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania where he directed the design and construction of the 65,000 square foot, $42.5 million visual and performing arts center. While in Pittsburgh, he served on various advisory committees and Boards, including the Pittsburgh Cultural Trust, WQED Multimedia, Pittsburgh Dance Council, Pittsburgh City Theatre and Pittsburgh Opera.

In 1989, Mr. Barclay founded First Impressions Performances, a presenter of African American choreographers and dance companies. He was a past chair of the steering committee of National Performance Network, as well as a visiting professor in UCLA’s Department of Worked Arts and Culture, for four years. He also served as inaugural director of marketing and development for the Harriet and Charles Luckman Fine Arts Complex at California State University.

Prior to his work in Pittsburgh, he was the associate director of the Performing Arts Center at the University of Texas at Austin for 7 years. He served for nine years on the Board of Directors of the Association of Performing Arts Presenters (APAP), including three years on the Executive Committee as Vice President. As a consultant and peer panelist, Mr. Barclay has worked for the National Endowment for the Arts, Pew Charitable Trusts, Pittsburgh’s internationally renowned cultural district, and Lila Wallace Reader’s Digest Fund.

He received his B.A. degree in Fine Arts from Loyola University (Los Angeles), was a Master of Fine Arts Fellow at Cornell University, and received his law degree from Loyola Law School.
Cecil Bernard is one of the most passionate and exciting abstract artists in the contemporary art world. His work is contained in some of the most prestigious art collections around the globe while his reputation as the “Artist to the Stars” grows daily.

Bernard was born in Austin, Texas, and started drawing at the age of six. He moved to Dallas when he was ten years old, living there until adulthood. He started selling art while in high school and later while attending Southwestern Adventist University in Keene, Texas.

Bernard, whose work began to attract the attention of numerous celebrities in the 1970’s and today notable athletes, entertainers and serious art collectors worldwide proudly showcase his work in their homes and places of business. Bernard’s work has been exhibited in fine art galleries throughout the southeastern United States and overseas and has been featured in numerous art shows.

Bernard’s acrylic abstracts, pastel paintings and ink sketches exhibit great power. "Passion, color, texture, spontaneity, and balance are the core of my acrylic abstract paintings and contemporary jazz and music pieces," says Bernard. “Inspired by the struggle, humor and spirituality in the balance of life, I paint - usually without a brush.”

Bernard’s unique method of painting - often using his hands, cardboard or rags - has become one of his trademarks. “I pour the paint, I throw it, I drop it, and I spray it,” he says. “Colors have value in every painting, and color itself is spiritual, if arranged in a manner that speaks to the soul and stirs the passion of the beholder. Every painting tells a story, no matter how simple, no matter how complex.”
WITH two hit shows currently on the air and 11 films having been released in the last six years, all opening at #1 or #2 on their opening weekends, Roger Bobb is without question one of the most successful producers working in the film and television industry today. Roger is the President of Bobbcat Films a film and television production company based in Atlanta Georgia. Prior to creating Bobbcat films, Roger served as Executive Vice President of Tyler Perry Studios.

Roger is the Supervising Producer of “Tyler Perry’s House of Payne” which premiered on TBS as the highest rated first run sitcom in basic cable history. The show recently taped it’s 222nd episode. He also is the Executive Producer of the sitcom “Tyler Perry’s Meet the Browns,” which premiered on TBS as the second highest rated sitcom in basic cable history and has taped over 140 episodes. Roger’s films include “Diary Of A Mad Black Woman” which has grossed over 100 million dollars in theatrical and DVD sales to date. He produced “Madea’s Family Reunion,” “Daddy’s Little Girls,” “Why Did I Get Married?,” “Meet The Browns,” “The Family that Preys”, “Madea Goes To Jail” “I Can Do Bad All By Myself,” “Why Did I Get Married Too?,” “For Colored Girls” and more recently “Madea’s Big Happy Family”. His films have a combined revenue of over $500 million dollars.

ROGER BOBB
President
Bobbcat Films

Man of Influence

Roger was youngest African-American First AD member of the Director’s Guild of America. He is the only two time winner of the Best Film Award at the American Black Film Festival. Roger was named one of the top 40 executives under 40 by the The Network Journal Magazine. He has been profiled in several magazines such as Black Enterprise, Essence, Uptown and TV Guide. Born in London and raised in Brooklyn, Roger’s career in film began when he was accepted into the Director’s Guild of America’s prestigious Assistant Director Trainee program. This highly selective program enables candidates to learn the intricacies of major feature filmmaking for a two year period under the guidance of some of Hollywood’s top directors and producers. Roger was fortunate to work with such legendary directors as Woody Allen, Mike Nichols and James Mangold.

Upon completing the program, Roger worked within the New York independent film community as an assistant director and quickly rose to the rank of producer. His many credits include “NYPD Blue,” “New York Undercover,” “Copland,” “Witness to the Mob,” and “State Property 2”. Roger attended Brooklyn College and the School Of Visual Arts.
George Brown is the Executive Assistant Manager - Sr. Director of Food & Beverage at the Hyatt Regency Atlanta. As a member of the Hotel Executive Committee, his responsibilities include total hotel short and long term strategic planning, work force training and development, and oversight of day-to-day operations to ensure quality assurance, guest and associate satisfaction.

A native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, George has been in the hotel business since the age of 16 where he started as a pot washer at the Warwick Hotel. Since joining Hyatt Hotels & Resorts in 1989, George has held various leadership positions including, Executive Steward, Food & Beverage Manager, Fine Dining Manager & Assistant Food & Beverage Director.

Prior to coming to Atlanta, George was the Food & Beverage Director at Hyatt Orlando International Airport, Columbus, Ohio and Lexington, Kentucky. During his tenure with Hyatt, he has received numerous leadership and service awards.

As Regional Senior Director of Food & Beverage for Hyatt, George has responsibility for mentorship, communication, implementation and compliance of corporate policy for Food & Beverage Operations at Hyatt locations as far west as Denver Colorado.

George is a graduate of Howard University. He is a member of the 100 Black Men of Atlanta. He and his wife Teri are the proud parents of a daughter Jorden and son Joshua.
An internationally-recognized leader in empowering low-wealth communities in America and across the world, John Hope Bryant is no stranger to poverty. Raised in Compton and South Central Los Angeles, Bryant had been homeless for six months by the age of 18. Finding his way out of poverty, he has dedicated his life to leading the way for others.

Today, Bryant is known as one of the foremost authorities on poverty eradication around the world—and has advised the past three sitting presidents on economic justice issues. He currently serves on President Barack Obama’s Advisory Council on Financial Capability. Bryant has also served on the Global Agenda Council for the World Economic Forum as an advisor on financial literacy.

In 1992, following the King riots in Los Angeles, Bryant established Operation HOPE—America’s first nonprofit social investment banking organization. Aimed at empowering low-wealth clients by providing them with access to financial education, bank services, and financial resources, HOPE now operates in 70 US communities as well as Haiti and South Africa. With the help of over 12,500 HOPE Corps volunteers and 5,000 government, community, private sector and faith-based partners, HOPE has reached over 1.4 million individuals worldwide.

His work has put financial literacy on the national agenda and inspired the establishment of the new U.S. SBA Office of Entrepreneurial Education, a U.S. Treasury report on the future of financial literacy and responsible subprime lending, and legislation requiring financial literacy counseling for borrowers.

A prolific writer, Bryant is the best-selling author of Love Leadership: The New Way to Lead in a Fear-Based World. He is a member of USA Today’s CEO panel and a regular contributor to the Huffington Post. Bryant has received over 400 awards and citations for his advocacy work, including Oprah Winfrey’s Use Your Life Award.
Rudolph “Rudy” H. Carn is the Founder and CEO of NAESM, Inc., a non-profit National Leadership, Advocacy and Service Organization in Atlanta, GA. Since starting the organization in 1990 along with Mae Reed and Madam Edna Brown, Rudy has remained committed to providing HIV/AIDS prevention, education, services, leadership development, advocacy and technical assistance primarily to African American [men who have sex with men] both in Atlanta and nationally. Under his leadership, NAESM has grown from an outreach activity to a nationally recognized organization which has been instrumental in addressing the health and social disparities associated with the incidence and prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other Health Disparities that affect black gay men.

In addition to working for NAESM for more than 21 years, Rudy has served on various local, statewide and national HIV/AIDS committees and advisory groups/boards including: Georgia's HIV Prevention Community Planning Group [community co-chair three terms]; Fulton County Board of Commissioners Ryan White Title I Planning Council; Georgia AIDS Task Force; CDC's Advisory Committee for Black Gay Men's Health; and the National Black Gay Men's Advocacy Coalition [board chairperson]. His other accomplishments include creating the National African American MSM Leadership Conference on HIV/AIDS inaugurated 2001, the eight held in Brooklyn, New York in 2011.

In 1992, he helped organized Georgia Shares, Inc., a federation of non-profit organizations deeply committed to social justice for all Georgians. Rudy has also been featured in several new articles and TV programs, such as the Bill O'Reilly Show and Essence Magazine as well as co-authoring: “Homelessness and Hunger as HIV Risk Factors for African American Male Commercial Sex Workers” in the Journal of African American Men, Volume 5, Issue 1 [2000].

Before starting his commitment in HIV/AIDS prevention and other Health Disparities, Rudy was born in Manhattan, NY and completed his undergraduate studies in math and education at St. Francis College in Brooklyn, NY. In 1988 he attend LA Southwest College and completed his diploma in nursing; becoming a registered nurse. Rudy served 12 years in the U.S. Air Force as a flight nurse.
Mark has over 25 years of senior executive leadership experience in a variety of hospitals and health systems, academic medical centers and teaching hospitals – all in competitive marketplaces. He has a track record of building strong and effective physician, board, employee and community relationships, improving clinical quality and safety, improving patient and physician satisfaction, recruiting physicians, creating new programs and establishing effective affiliations with other hospitals. He has been very successful growing programs, services, profit margin and market share. Through competence, patience and persistence, he has been able to instill trust and confidence, and successfully engage all stakeholders in improving hospitals’ outcomes.

His career in healthcare management began at an age much earlier than most executives. After receiving a MPA (with a concentration in healthcare management) from the University of Kansas at age 23, Mark became Executive Director of a 50-bed hospital in rural Mississippi. He was the youngest hospital CEO in the nation at that time. (He later received a MBA from the J. Mack Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University.)

Mark went on to spend nine years as Assistant Executive Director at Emory University Hospital, a 500-bed academic healthcare facility in Atlanta; six years as Executive Director of the District of Columbia General Hospital; four years as President of Essex Valley Healthcare, Inc. and President & CEO of East Orange General Hospital in New Jersey; five years as Administrator of the Hospital Center at Orange and Vice President of its parent, the Cathedral Healthcare System, also in New Jersey, and six years at Executive Director of the University of Toledo Medical Center and Vice President of the university. Mark is currently at the University of Chicago Medical Center, a 570 bed facility with 9500 FTEs and $1B in patient revenues, where he serves as the Vice President of Operations and Transplant Services.

Mark conceived of and secured funding for the construction of a medical office building adjacent to East Orange General Hospital. The 70,000 SF building included 12 M.D. office suites, a retail pharmacy and a 36 station dialysis unit. The new dialysis unit enhanced the quality of patient care in the community and created much improved relationships with the medical staff. Essex Valley Healthcare’s share of the dialysis market increased by 20 percent; and hospital admissions grew by 15 percent.

Under Mark’s leadership, UTMC was selected by Solucient as a “top performing academic medical center,” was recognized by US News & World Report for “Gold Sustained Performance” and achieved outstanding JCAHO reviews with only four RFIs, ranking it among the nation’s “best performing hospitals.”

Mark is a Fellow of the American College of Healthcare Executives. He serves as a member of the American Hospital Association’s Regional Policy Board; and, until recently, he served as a member of the Board of Trustees for Hospital Council of Northwest Ohio and a member of the Board of Directors for the University Health Consortium.

Mark is married to Linda Earley Chastang. They are the proud parents of two adult children.
Dwayne A. Crawford, Senior Vice President, 100 Black Men of America, Inc., is a successful business executive with over 20 years of Fortune 500 and nonprofit professional experience. He is responsible for overseeing the External and Development activities of the 100. He is a strong leader with expertise and skills in team building, motivational training, managing/directing, and mentoring.

Dwayne has a proven track record of delivering double-digit growth earnings while spearheading significant organizational change. He has experience in general management, sales, marketing, operations, finance, and union labor relations in the following industries: electronics, financial services, medical devices, computer technology and nonprofit.

A native of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Dwayne Crawford earned a Bachelor of Science degree from Hampton University and a Masters degree in Marketing and Finance from New York University, Stern School of Business. He is also a Graduate of the Bank of New York Corporate Management Program, Credit Training.

His level of competence has landed him senior management positions with 100 Black Men of America, Inc., Senior Vice President; 100 Black Men of America, Inc., Chief Operating Officer; ADT Security Services, Inc., Director of Sales and Marketing (Revenue $325M); ADT Security Services, Inc., General Manager (Revenue $80M); and Bank of New York Regional Manager (Deposits $840M and Loans $100M).

Mr. Crawford’s leadership excellence has been chronicled in Who’s Who in Black Atlanta, Nationwide Register’s Who’s Who in Executives and Businesses, and he’s a part of the International Who’s Who of Professional Management. He is committed to lending his time, talent and resources to the benefit of others. As such, Mr. Crawford is a part of the American Red Cross National Diversity Advisory Council, Delta Air Lines Curator Board of Directors, Nicholas House Board of Directors, 100 Black Men of North Metro, Inc. Board of Directors, and The Ervin Academy Board of Directors. He is also Chairman of the Atlanta U.S. Army Board of Advisors.

Accordingly, Mr. Crawford has received numerous awards and recognition and civic citations including, but not limited to Atlanta Consumer Choice Award for Business Excellence, the United Way “Top 10 Corporate Per Capita Award” and Outstanding Young Men of America. He is a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

Dwayne is the father of two daughters, Taylor and Kayla and one son, Andre.
From Brooklyn, New York to Atlanta, Georgia it has been an exciting and circuitous journey for Niles Harris, General Manager of the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel.

Located in the heart of downtown Atlanta, the Sheraton Atlanta Hotel is the sixth largest meeting and convention property in the city with 90,000 sq. ft of function space and 763 rooms. The hotel, under Niles Harris’ strategic direction underwent a dramatic change with 2009’s $20 million Capital Improvement Project. These investments contributed to a total of $70 million spent in architectural and green enhancement programs in the past 7 years. “We are advancing Sheraton Atlanta’s renaissance from an unpretentious property into a stylishly designed, eminently comfortable, and richly rewarding hotel experience.” says Harris.

After graduation from New York City College of Technology, Niles was presented a choice of two entry level opportunities--an offer from the New York Statler Hotel and another from the famous Lugars Steak House Restaurant. “I took the job at the 1,737 room New York Statler beginning as a mail and information clerk, and from that point on I was hooked on the hotel business.”

Sojourns spanning 25 years at prominent hotels and resorts across America paved the way for Niles Harris’ appointment as General Manager of Atlanta’s flagship Sheraton property in 2008. He also served as President of Hotel Concierge, which develops and licenses Web based software for hotels and offices.

Success at properties such as New York’s Essex House Hotel and the Helmsley Palace; Omni Hotels in Boston St. Louis and Washington, D.C.; Four Seasons Inn on the Park in Houston; Crown Plaza Ravinia and Hotel Nikko in Atlanta and The Resort at Squaw Creek in Lake Tahoe marked his hospitality career. Each new hotel assignment was a progressive step requiring higher levels of responsibilities, more knowledge and skills leading to more challenging assignments.

Niles learned all facets of the hotel business from management training programs, to front office manager, general manager and everything in-between, many of the properties where he was employed are classified as Mobil Four and Five Star and AAA Five Diamond icons. “I relished each new challenge and this became pivotal in my career. I realized that I could handle any assignment, and succeed no matter if it was at leisure properties, resort and conference centers, golf, ski resorts, newly opened hotels or re-franchised operations.”

“Along the way,” said Niles, “I was mentored by some of the brightest people in the industry who taught me, encouraged me and promoted me. Now it is my turn to mentor the younger people coming up in the hotel ranks so they can be successful and grow. I demonstrate the importance of enthusiasm, working hard every day and taking care of their people.”

The Sheraton Atlanta invested millions of dollars in a major revitalization and enhancement improvement program with General Manager, Niles Harris at the helm. He seamlessly navigated the hotel through a channel where his strategic planning helped to mesh on time and with a successful conclusion in November 2009.
James “Mac” Hunter is a Senior Partner at Morris Manning & Martin, LLP, where he practices in the areas of corporate, healthcare, employment, government relations, eminent domain, and exempt organizations. For over thirty-eight years, Mr. Hunter has represented a broad spectrum of clients in the public and private arenas, including the representation of governmental entities, corporations and individuals. He began his practice in 1973 as a civil rights attorney for the federal government, working for his mentor Donald Lee Hollowell, the celebrated civil rights attorney for Dr. Martin Luther King.

Mr. Hunter was one of the first lawyers assigned to the “Atlanta Litigation Center” of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission in 1973. He litigated some of the first procedural challenges to EEOC’s authority under the 1972 Amendment to Title VII, in Georgia, Alabama, Florida, Mississippi, Tennessee, North Carolina and South Carolina. He successfully tried an early case for a large class under the agency’s new suit authority, resulting in legal precedent that was appealed to the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals and ultimately resolved by the U.S. Supreme Court. In a bench ruling by the trial judge in this case, which was unusual for complex employment litigation, Mr. Hunter was personally commended in the record for his handling of the case.

Continuing his practice after leaving the federal government, Mr. Hunter was the senior legal officer for M & M Products Co., a local company that grew from humble beginnings to over $57 Million in annual sales in less than 10 years, becoming the 11th largest minority owned company in the nation. After leaving the corporate world, Mr. Hunter became a partner with the local firm of Hurt Richardson Garner Todd & Cadenhead, LLP, where he co-chaired the firm’s Labor and Employment Practice. He next became a partner in the Philadelphia-based firm of Schnader Harrison Segal & Lewis, LLP, serving as chair of the Atlanta Office’s Labor and Employment Group. He thereafter became a partner with the international firm of Holland & Knight, LLP, where he served as co-chair of the Employment Practices Group. He is currently a senior partner with Morris Manning & Martin, LLP, where he has served as co-chair of the Diversity Committee and the Exempt Practices Group.

For nearly four decades, Mr. Hunter has labored to improve and strengthen his community and especially the African American community across the country. He was instrumental in the formation of the 100 Black Men of Atlanta and the 100 Black Men of America, organizations he continues to support with his time. The primary focus in these organizations has been the mentoring and development of young African Americans for higher education and leadership. He has held the position of General Counsel of the 100 Black Men of America, Inc. for over 25 years. He is also General Counsel for the 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc., the National Black College Hall of Fame Foundation, Inc., the Trumpet Awards Foundation, Inc., and the National Cares Mentoring Movement, Inc.

Mr. Hunter currently serves as Chairman of the Atlanta Workforce Development Board, former Chairman and Board Member of Goodwill Industries of North Georgia, Trustee Board Member of the Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and former Board Member of the Atlanta Judicial Commission. Mr. Hunter has been featured as a “Georgia Super Lawyer” in the Atlanta Magazine for each of the past seven years and was recently inducted into the Hall of Fame of the Gate City Bar Association. He has achieved an “AV” Rating from Martindale-Hubbell, the highest rating for lawyers by their peers. He is a recipient of the William “Bill” Wimberly Leadership Award from the 100 Black Men of America, Inc., the Men of Distinction Award from the Atlanta Tribune, and the Outstanding Alumni Award from Howard University.

Mr. Hunter received his B.S from Fort Valley State University, his J.D. from Howard University School of Law, and has further study at Harvard Law School. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc., Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Inc., National Association of Guardsmen, Inc., Phi Alpha Delta Law Fraternity, Inc., 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc. and Leadership Atlanta, Inc. He is married to Lorraine Dunlap Hunter and they have three daughters, Adrienne Hunter-Strothers, Michelle Jamie Hunter and Hillary Arlene Hunter.
Tom Hutchinson launched a seminal security business out of a drive for financial independence and the desire to make a difference. Built on a foundation of integrity, quality and commitment to community, Confidential Security Agency, Inc., thirty-nine years in operation, is the prophetic personification of his ambitions. It comes as no surprise that the man known as Chief is a respected leader, both in his industry and his community.

Confidential Security Agency, consistently listed among Atlanta’s top ten security guard firms in Atlanta Business Chronicle’s annual review, provides protective services to a broad range of commercial, government and private industry clients. As the demands for specialized security have evolved, and technology innovations have revolutionized the industry, Confidential has maintained its competitive edge. What’s more, the business has had a major economic impact, employing thousands of people in nearly 40 years of operation.

Hutchinson won accolades as an award winning agent for Mutual of Omaha, outselling all of his competitors. It was a good living and, had he stayed he could have easily become wealthy. Yet it failed to provide him with another important element of his ambition. Chief began to realize that true financial independence came not just from earning money, but from owning a business.

Being master of his own fate would allow Hutchinson to make good on another long-held goal. The reliable family provider, he also wanted to be able to put good people to work. On the advice of an enterprising uncle who recommended security guarding as a promising frontier, Hutchinson opened a small security business in the 1960s. A keen observer, he became a student of the industry, learning everything he could about security.

In 1972, he founded Confidential Security Agency, becoming one of few if any other blacks in the industry. Despite racial and regional barriers to success, he went on to build a reputation as an industry leader, much of it on word of mouth, and as someone who cares deeply about his community.

His service to others became a hallmark of the way he did business. At the height of the Civil Rights Movement, Hutchinson would often finance civil rights initiatives being orchestrated by the NAACP and SCLC. As the business flourished under government contracting, he joined the Atlanta Business League in the late 1970s, serving the organization as Board Chair. While not one to seek the spotlight, the unassuming businessman was deliberate in the way he championed the fight for freedom with his checkbook.

The same values that launched the business – a disciplined approach to doing business, valuing people, building relationships, and giving back to the community – are the ones that have sustained it over the decades. Although he’s scaled back his involvement, only working on new business development, Hutchinson has remained and true to his goals. With the focus on longevity rather than attention, relationships more than recognition, others more than self, his contributions to his industry and his community speak volumes about the kind of man he is.
Commissioner Larry Johnson represents district 3 of DeKalb County. Because of his background and efforts in the field of public health, Commissioner Larry Johnson was appointed in 2005 to chair the Health Disparities Subcommittee of the Health Steering Committee for NACo, the National Association of Counties. In 2008, he was appointed as Vice Chair of the NACo Health Steering Committee. The Health Steering Committee has jurisdiction, on a national policy level, over all matters pertaining to health care delivery and financing including: indigent care health, care for the uninsured, Medicaid, Medicare, long-term care, local public health programs, mental health, substance abuse and development disabilities.

As DeKalb County Commissioner, Johnson started “DeKalb Walks. For the Health of It”, an initiative designed to get DeKalb residents to focus on improving their health through walking. Under this initiative, he designated walking as the official exercise of DeKalb --- the only locality in Georgia or the U.S. to do so. His goal is to get DeKalb residents healthy and improve their overall healthful lifestyles. Another initiative that Commissioner Johnson has instituted is the Prescription Discount Drug Card. Through the National Association of Counties (NACo), Commissioner Johnson implemented the program in DeKalb County where participants in the program will save up to 20% off of their prescription drug costs not covered by any other insurance.

Commissioner Johnson is the former communications director for the Association of Black Cardiologist, and former manager for the Fulton County Department of Health & Wellness, where he managed the REACH Program -- Racial and Ethnic Approaches to Community Health -- a federal initiative that included the goal of eliminating racial and ethnic disparities in health by the year 2010. He has a Bachelors degree in Community Health and a Master Degree in Public Health.

Commissioner Larry Johnson is married and has one daughter.
John Kelley is a career leadership professional with the insight, vision and enthusiasm necessary to inspire teams and garner impressive results. With a history in lean business and operations management, he has significant expertise in strategic planning, external affairs, and personnel management. Kelley is a high energy individual who is highlighted by his dedication to community service needs throughout Metro Atlanta.

Kelley is currently serving as Area Manager for Georgia Power - Metro East Region. In this position, he manages and develops external strategies for the Metro Atlanta area. His responsibilities include the overall implementation of the Region’s external plan for DeKalb, Rockdale, and Newton counties.

With his keen sense of public administration, Kelley continues to build strong, positive relationships on behalf of Georgia Power with key elected government officials and opinion leaders; thus, influencing continued community development while promoting healthy economic environments and growth to the service area. His business acumen coupled with his astute leadership qualities has proven invaluable as he expertly analyzes a great deal of information quickly and assesses complex, sensitive situations. Leading with conviction, Kelley truly exemplifies the “big picture” thinker, always having the foresight to see the long-term implications of a plan.

A graduate of Leadership Atlanta, the Regional Leadership Institute and Leadership Midtown, Kelley is deeply involved in leadership roles throughout the communities in which he serves. Those roles include; Chairman of the DeKalb Chamber, Past Chairman of the Conyers Rockdale Chamber, board member of the DeKalb Convention and Visitors Bureau, DeKalb Medical Foundation, Metro Atlanta YMCA – Decatur, and Past Chairman and board member for the Savannah State University Foundation; Inc. In addition, Kelley served as Chairman for the Atlanta Business League in 2005, Chairman of the South DeKalb Business Incubator and Chair of the Committee for a Better Atlanta.

A native of Augusta, GA, Kelley earned his Bachelor of Business Administration from Savannah State University and his Master of Public Administration from Georgia Southern University. He resides in Peachtree City, with his wife Verla, where he enjoys contributing his free time to refereeing high school football and events that support the arts, such as benefit concerts, and various fundraisers.
ALONZO L. LLORENS  
Chairman  
Ron Clark Academy

MAN OF INFLUENCE

Alonzo L. Llorens is a Partner with Gordon and Rees LLP where he practices in the firm’s Business Transactions Section. Mr. Llorens has substantial experience in corporate law including initial public and private offerings, mergers and acquisitions, formation of venture and hedge funds and corporate governance matters. Prior to entering private practice, Mr. Llorens was an attorney with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission’s Division of Corporation Finance in Washington, D.C.

Mr. Llorens earned a J.D. degree from Howard University School of Law where he was Managing Editor of the Howard Law Journal and a B.S. degree in International Trade and Finance from Louisiana State University. Mr. Llorens started his career as an attorney in the U.S. Department of the Treasury’s Honors Program.

Mr. Llorens currently serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Ron Clark Academy and is the author of two new books, a novel entitled “The Mirror” and a business tool entitled “The MBE’s Guide to Raising Capital.” Mr. Llorens also serves on the board of directors of the Atlanta Coalition of Performing Arts and has previously served on the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Business League, the Metro Atlanta Chamber of Commerce and the Atlanta Legal Diversity Consortium. Mr. Llorens is a proud member of 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc., Leadership Atlanta and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Mr. Llorens is a frequent speaker for various organizations and educational forums for attorneys and business owners. Mr. Llorens has also authored and co-authored articles on various topics relating to corporate and securities law.

As Chairman of the Ron Clark Academy’s Board of Trustees, Mr. Llorens has helped build what is considered by most to be the nation’s premiere educational training facility as it trains over 3,000 teachers each year from across the globe. Mr. Llorens is particularly proud of the fact that, while the school is only in its fourth year of existence, its first graduating class of 8th graders, the Class of 2010 (20 students) and the graduating Class of 2011 (20 students) earned $800,000 and $1,400,000, respectively, in scholarships to premiere schools throughout the City of Atlanta and beyond.

Mr. Llorens and his wife Alison are proud parents of twins, Angelina and Alonzo, Jr.
Curtis J. Martin II is the President of the Gate City Bar Association, which is an affiliate chapter of the National Bar Association and is Georgia’s oldest African American bar association. The Gate City Bar Association was founded in 1948 by ten African American attorneys for the purpose of providing the educational, social and community involvement of a professional association for African American attorneys, who had been excluded from participating in Georgia’s segregated bar associations. Mr. Martin was sworn in as President on an evening that marked the organization’s 63rd birthday and unveiled the 2011 theme of “Embracing Our Past, Uplifting Our Communities, and Serving Tomorrow’s Leaders Today.” This theme embodies the purpose and principles upon which the Gate City Bar Association was founded, and Mr. Martin has demonstrated an unyielding commitment to continuing in the organization’s rich tradition of leadership through service.

Mr. Martin is an attorney with Miller & Martin PLLC and practices in the areas of business litigation and labor and employment. Prior to joining Miller & Martin, Mr. Martin was a partner with Mozley, Finlayson & Loggins LLP. He has extensive experience representing businesses in matters that include commercial litigation, product liability, premises liability and trucking litigation. In addition to his litigation practice, he also utilizes his professional and corporate background to counsel clients on issues related to the workplace. Mr. Martin has successfully defended and tried cases throughout Georgia, representing a full spectrum of clients from start-up businesses to Fortune 500 companies.

Mr. Martin received his B.B.A. from Radford University’s College of Business and Economics. Following his graduation, Mr. Martin was employed by IBM in the Global Services Division and was a recipient of the prestigious IBM Golden Circle Award. He received his Juris Doctor degree from Valparaiso University in 2003, after spending his final year as a visiting student at Georgia State University College of Law. While in law school, Mr. Martin was a member of moot court and served as President of the Black Law Students Association (“BLSA”) and founding President of the Multicultural Law Students Association. During his term as BLSA President, Mr. Martin played an integral role in creating Valparaiso University’s first diversity scholarship.

He has also engaged in numerous pro bono and civic activities in his service to the community and the legal profession. Mr. Martin has provided pro bono legal representation to the community through the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation’s Domestic Violence Program which affords representation to the victims of domestic violence. Mr. Martin is passionate about serving the needs of children and young adults. He currently serves on the Board of Directors of Horizons Atlanta, which is a non-profit organization designed to provide an academic enrichment program to public school children from economically disadvantaged families. He is also a contributor to the Atlanta Business Journal, authoring a bi-monthly column focused on legal and workplace issues.

In 2010 and 2011, Mr. Martin was selected for inclusion in Georgia Super Lawyers, Rising Stars, marking him as a top Georgia lawyer under the age of 40 (no more than 2.5% of Georgia lawyers can be named a Rising Star). He has also been named to “Who’s Who in Black Atlanta” (2009 and 2010), and named to the Atlanta Business Journal’s “40 On the Rise” (2009).
Mitchell (Mitch) received a B.S. degree from North Carolina A&T State University and an MBA from the University of Wisconsin, Madison. His career started as an auditor with the big 8 accounting firm of Arthur Andersen & Company, Atlanta. After 4 ½ years with Arthur Anderson, he accepted a position with Cable Atlanta (now Comcast) as Vice President and Controller. After 4 ½ years with Cable Atlanta, Mitch left to start the accounting firm of Martin, Harps, Syphoe & Company (MHS & Co.), now one of the best known minority Certified Public Accounting firms in the Southeast. Martin, Harps, Syphoe & Co. audited the 1996 Olympic Games and was the first minority firm in the history of the Olympics to perform this service. In addition to MHS & Co., he co-founded Grecian Foods, Inc., now Global Concessions, Inc. (Global). Global is a multi-franchise owner/operator. Global currently owns and operates the following franchises in Hartsfield-Jackson Airport: Great Wraps, Ben & Jerry’s Ice Cream (3), Nathan’s Famous Hotdogs (3) and Arthur Treacher’s Fish and Chips. Global also developed and operates Sojourner’s Bar (3) and the Juke Joint at the Atlanta Airport. Global Concessions, Inc. provides job opportunities for over 250 people.

Mitch has been recognized as an Outstanding Alumnus from North Carolina A&T State University by Beta Alpha Psi. He has received a Presidential Citation from the National Association for Equal Opportunity in Higher Education. He has been featured as keynote speaker for many local and national events.

Mitch currently serves as a member of the Business School Advisory Committee for N.C. A&T State University. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of Atlanta Interfaith Broadcasters, Inc. (AIB), where he serves as treasurer. He is a member of the National Board of Directors of the Girl Scouts of the USA; where he serves on the board development and audit committees.

Mitch has served as co-chair of the United Negro Telethon. He has served on two (2) American Institute of Certified Public Accountant’s (AICPA) national committees, Minority Recruitment and Equal Opportunity and the Educational Committee. He is a past treasurer of Oak Knoll PTA and a former member of 100 Black Men of Atlanta. Mitch formerly coached basketball and baseball in the East Point Youth Athletic Association. He is a former member of the City of East Point Pension Board and is past Chairman of the Girl Scout Council of NW Georgia, (the 5th largest Girl Scout Council in the country.) He was the first male to hold the position.

Mitch is married to Jacquelyn and they have three (3) sons: Mitch (30), Jonathan (27), and Matthew (22).
MARK MASSEY
Clerk to the Commission
Fulton County Government

MAN OF INFLUENCE

Mark Massey is a Senior Executive for Fulton County Government. He serves as Clerk to the Board of Commission, appointed by the Fulton County Board of Commissioners. In this capacity, he manages a ten-member staff and various County programs and services. He serves as the official record keeper of all Commission acts, orders and proceedings including monitoring the preparation of the Board of Commissioners’ Meeting Agenda. He is responsible for a wide variety of written communications, and the position serves as historian, protocol expert, and liaison to citizens, local & international dignitaries, and businesses. As such, he monitors the procurement of goods and services from outside contractors or agencies, process County contracts, maintains revenue bonds’ listings and recodification of the County Official Code of Laws.

Mark is a Certified County & Municipal Clerk. He advises and provides strategic planning, policy formulation, media and community relations and program management to government officials. While working for the Fulton County Human Services Department, he conducted public hearings and acted as a conduit to community leaders and educators in shaping policies and strategies as well as creating an awareness of programs and services impacting the community. He functioned as department spokesperson to the media in addressing youth and children’s issues, and worked with various community institutions in developing solutions to enhance quality standards of childcare, health and education.

Prior to his government tenure, Mark was an educator for Fulton County Schools in middle and high school environments, Atlanta Metropolitan College and Atlanta Technical Institute. He provided basic and accelerated math instruction.

Mark is an experienced event planner through both his professional and volunteer work. He volunteers in his in-town community for the homeless, environmental activities and with the National Black College Hall of Fame. He is an experienced Community Board Member and has held various board positions.

Mark received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics Education from Fort Valley State College where he pledged Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity. He achieved his Master’s Degree in Educational Leadership from Georgia State University.

An in-town Atlanta resident, Mark is the proud son of Carole Massey Dortch of Atlanta and Silas Massey Jr. of Princeton, New Jersey.
Harold Mitchell, Sr. is a retired Agency Executive with State Farm Insurance. He began his career with State Farm Insurance on January 10, 1968, as a claim adjustor, and later advanced to the following positions as claim supervisor, claim superintendent, Agent, Agency Manager, Agency Director, Agency Field Executive, and retiring as a Zone Assistant. Harold moved to Winter Haven, Florida in 1988, and then to Atlanta in 1991. Harold retired August 31, 2005.

Harold graduated from Southern Illinois University in 1967 with a degree in Marketing. He is a long serving member of the Atlanta Technical College Foundation Board and currently serves as Chairman. He coached Little League Baseball for 20 years, served as a Board Member of the Neighborhood Housing Authority and is an active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity. In addition, Harold served as Vice President of 100 Black Men of Atlanta and is a Deacon at Friendship Baptist Church in Duluth, GA.

Harold is also a retired National College Athletic Association (NCAA) Football official. He worked in the Big Ten Conference for 10 years, before relocating to Florida. Harold then became an football official in the SEC for 12 years where he was the first Black head Referee in the conference.

Harold worked the 1987 Rose Bowl, the 1985 and 1995 Gator Bowl, the 1994 Orange Bowl, and two Southeastern Conference (SEC) Championship games. He also previously served as a “Replay Official” in the Atlantic Coast Conference (ACC). Harold currently is Coordinator of Football Officials in the Southwestern Athletic Conference (SWAC).

Harold and his wife, Victoria, have 2 sons, Harold, Jr. (Kyia), and Kevin Sr. (Michelle). Harold Jr. is a State Farm Agent in Atlanta, while Kevin is a claim adjustor for Travelers Insurance. Both Harold Jr. and Kevin Sr. officiate College football. Harold and Victoria have 4 grandchildren, Harold III, Chandler, Christopher and Kevin Jr.
On April 17, 1942, in Washington, D.C., Mr. Arthur Queen was born. He graduated from Fairmont Heights High School and attended both Prince George’s Community College and Delaware State University. Arthur and his wife Sandra of 31 years relocated to Atlanta, Georgia in 1985. They currently reside in DeKalb County, Georgia.

On March 3, 2011, Arthur ‘Art’ Queen, celebrated 25 years in business. He started his entrepreneurship journey in 1986 on Jimmy Carter Boulevard in Norcross, GA. Mr. Queen opened Ebony Glass & Mirror, Inc. with two employees hoping the phone would ring. This glass & glazing firm may have started off slow but has become a very successful minority firm. In 2008, Ebony Glass & Mirror, Inc. changed its name to EGM Services, Inc. This was a result of the expansion of the expertise in project management and engineering design as well as glass installation for government and commercial clients.

From installing auto glass for the All-State Insurance Co., Queen moved on to contracts at Underground Atlanta and to Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport, where he worked on the air cargo and Concourse E four gate expansion and the Technical Support Campus. His firm also worked on the Adamsville Recreation Center in Atlanta. In 2008, EGM was awarded a $4 million glass contract for the $300 million Consolidated Rental Car Facility at Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. In that same year, EGM was awarded a $3 million contract to be one of the three minority firms on the engineering design team for the DeKalb County’s $800 million Snapfinger/Polebridge Waste Water Treatment Plant.

Arthur is a member of the following organizations: 100 Black Men of DeKalb, National Association of Minority Contractors where he currently serves as the Atlanta Chapter President and has served as the National President for 4 years, Georgia Glass Dealers Association, Atlanta Business League, DeKalb Chamber of Commerce, Better Business Bureau, Georgia Association of Minority Entrepreneurs, Georgia Minority Supplier Development Council, Greater Economic Alliance, DEBCO where he served as chairman of the board, and Love Life Christian Fellowship Church.

Mr. Queen has received Governor’s proclamations from the States of Maryland and Georgia. Mr. Queen is an avid golfer and has a bowling average of 205 with 7 perfect games. As the Chairman of EGM & AUC, President of the Atlanta NAMC Chapter, Deacon at Love Life Christian Fellowship Church, Dad to his children, Dee-Doc to his Grandchildren & Smokey, as well as a member of many other organizations including the Atlanta Business League, Mr. Queen continues to live a busy life. Mr. Queen has truly created a legacy for his children and their children and plans to retire and act as a consultant in the near future.
Lonnie Abdul Saboor, Manager of Small Business & Industrial Finance, for the Atlanta Development Authority, graduated from Ottawa University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Business Administration and Economics; he also has a M.B.A. in Finance and Management from Atlanta University. He is listed in “Who’s Who” in the South and Southeast; is a recipient of the “Personalities of the South” Award and the “Leadership Award” from Entrepreneur Magazine. Mr. Saboor is a graduate of the 1990 “Leadership Atlanta” program.

Mr. Saboor has provided financial leadership to several commercial projects in the City of Atlanta since 1979, including Underground Atlanta’s Minority Tenant Program and the renovation of Greenbriar Mall. He has arranged financing for over 600 businesses in the city, representing over $500 million in public/private funds that resulted in the creation of over 5,000 new jobs.

Prior to assuming his current position, Mr. Saboor was a Management Consultant with the Georgia Department of Planning and Budget. He has also worked as Southern Regional Business Manager for the Nation of Islam; Consultant and Program Coordinator for the City of Macon’s Minority Business Assistance Program; and District Representative over eight “Stop & Go” convenient stores in Metro Atlanta. Mr. Saboor is author of a ‘best seller” book entitled “GETTING PAID” (Common Sense Business Tactics!).

He is currently on the board of directors of the Atlanta Business League, the Georgia Summit of African-American Business Organizations, Chairman of the Islamic Business Association of Atlanta, and Chairman of the Southwest Atlanta Youth Business Organization (SWAYBO). Mr. Saboor is the 2005 Toastmasters International Public Speaking Champion for the state of Georgia.
If you have ever read the work of inspirational speaker and poet, Hank Stewart, then you might find it hard to believe that this profoundly talented writer did not scribe his first poem until May of 1991. Stewart, a self-published writer who has been called a catalyst for action and a messenger of hope, considers spirituality, history and love as his major influences for delving into the world of literature. “My (life) experiences have had a great influence on the poetry… Poetry has helped me to deal with many issues,” says Hank, who released his first book titled, “The Answer” in 1993.

“The Answer”, a collection of poetry, which expressed the issues of love, unity and religion, uniquely introduced Stewart as a conscious writer among a culture of literary enthusiast. Shortly thereafter, Hank followed up his first work with a second book fittingly titled, “Second Chance” which was written to reveal the Savior to lost souls and to rejuvenate the Christian experience. In 1996, Hank wrote his third book, “Be Still and Know…” a religiously conscious collection of works focusing on the power of prayer and the importance of spiritual guidance. Hank collaborated with Kendra Norman-Bellamy to craft the nationally published Three Fifty-Seven A.M. novel in 2007, which is loosely based on the popular romantic poem 357. It is a dramatic and inspirational tale of love, betrayal, forgiveness and power of prayer.

A devoted Christian, Hank believes that a firm spiritual guidance can help an individual remain true to the mission of life and success. Therefore, he incorporates this belief in his poetry by encouraging people to move to new emotional heights and spiritual levels.“I think conscious poetry is important… It documents history. It’s a message to people who don’t always have a chance to listen to long sermons. If you look back over time poetry has made its way into every aspect of life…” In 1997, Stewart released a special edition of poems in his book, “Daydreaming About You”, which preceded two works, “Stay Focused” and “Stay Focus” both published in 1998. With the popularity of the merging of poetry and jazz within the literary culture, Stewart soon began to transform his written work into “Spoken Word” poetry, which earned him a regular guest spot on the “Quiet Storm”, a weekly radio broadcasting show highlighting talented poetry and jazz artists on one of Atlanta’s top radio stations, V-103.

Over the past sixteen years, Hank Stewart’s poetry has awarded him many opportunities including working on programs with prominent officials such as former Vice President, Al Gore and contributing a piece honoring the mother of the civil rights movement, Rosa Parks with a special poetry dedication. Mr. Stewart has recited his works for Rev Jesse L. Jackson, Atlanta Mayor Shirley Franklin and Dr. Joseph E. Lowery. He also presented Mr. Carl Ware of The Coca Cola Company a special piece of his work. Hank has performed at the 2003 and 2005 Essence Music Festival. He has written and performed commercials for the McDonald Corporation called “365 BLACK”. He has also written and performed African American poetic rendition commercials for Fox 5 Atlanta which resulted in the winning of the 2007 Emmy, Promax and Gabby awards. He is the recipient of the 2007 Man of Distinction Award for Who's Who Award for Who's Who in Black Atlanta & 2008 Distinctive Men Award. Mr. Stewart’s community service dedication has also afforded him many prestigious accolades such as the Georgia Legislative Black Caucus Award. He has performed in the 2008 & 2011 Trumpet Awards. Hank is the founder of “Walk of Against the Call” which is an awareness walk to prevent breast cancer raising more than $100,000. He is also the founder of the Annual White Linen Affair, Hot Chocolate, Love Jones Sunday’s and Five Men on a Stool. Hank’s strong presence in the community afforded him the opportunity to register 15,000 voters.

He has been on programs with the late Rev. Hosea Williams, Johnny Cochran and the list goes on and on. Always looking to advance his career to the next level, Stewart considers his plight as an author to inspire people to achieve maximum success and to touch as many lives as possible with a message of spirituality, love and history. “I want to leave a positive legacy, be it spiritual, love or history… I want people to think, whatever Hank Stewart wrote about touched me.”
Leonard provides executive leadership to Wells Fargo’s business banking activities in the metro Atlanta area for more than 4,000 companies and non-profits with annual sales ranging from $2,000,000 to more than $25,000,000. His team of bankers is responsible for all corporate banking, treasury services, lending and working capital management needs for business banking customers through ten offices in the market.

Leonard joined the company in 2003 and previously was business banking director for the Atlanta Central region.

He received a bachelor’s degree in economics from Davidson College in North Carolina and holds an MBA from Columbia University in New York. Leonard is also a graduate of the Harvard Business School’s program for management development.

An active member in the community, Leonard serves as the audit/finance committee chair for Clark Atlanta University Board of Trustees. He sits on the executive committee for Central Atlanta Progress, the Metro Atlanta YMCA real estate/properties committee, the Atlanta Chamber Public Schools Committee and the Metro Atlanta YMCA board. In addition, he serves on the board of the Grady Health Foundation.

Leonard, his wife Crystal and their two boys; Alex and Christopher reside in Sandy Springs.
Aaron Watson was elected by Atlanta citizens to serve as Post 2 At-Large Councilmember in December 2009. He chairs the Council’s Zoning Committee and serves on the Executive/Finance and Utilities Committees. Aaron has a distinguished career in public service in Atlanta focusing on the challenges of sensible transportation, smart land use, and appropriate housing density to link neighborhoods and maximize the quality of urban life.

Most notably, Aaron was an early advocate for the Peachtree Streetcar and he also helped nurture the Beltline project to surround Atlanta’s core with parks and mass transit, and spur economic development. As a long-term member of the Atlanta Development Authority (under three mayors), he championed the effective use of tax allocation districts to support development in neglected areas. He has also supported smart mixed-use development, and the inclusion of affordable housing in publicly supported private developments.

As a Commissioner of the Atlanta Housing Authority (2005 to 2009), Aaron was instrumental in the historic transformation of Atlanta’s housing projects into vibrant mixed-income communities with recreational and educational opportunities in place of formerly desolate neighborhoods.

And, as a member and former president of the Piedmont Park Conservancy, he has promoted a public-private partnership to restore the beauty, health and long-term maintenance of Piedmont Park and other parks throughout the city.

In 1993, Aaron was elected to the first of two four-year terms on the Atlanta Board of Education, where his colleagues chose him as President of the board for five of the eight years he served. Aaron also chaired the Finance Committee, overseeing $450 million annual operating budget and a $430 million capital improvement budget.

Under Aaron’s Leadership, the school board imposed high standards of accountability for results from students, teachers, and parents, becoming the first system in Georgia to end social promotions. The board recruited a stable and successful superintendent. Importantly, Aaron and the board built a regional coalition to implement SPLOST, enabling the Atlanta Schools system and other systems in the region to invest in infrastructure while paying off capital debt and reducing property taxes.

The oldest of four children, Aaron grew up in South Bend, Indiana. Aaron graduated from Notre Dame University with a Bachelor’s Degree in Accounting and practiced for four years as a certified public accountant with Deloitte. He subsequently attended Duke University Law School on the James A. Bell Scholarship. He currently practices corporate finance law.

Aaron and his wife Sandra have raised their three children in Atlanta. Two of their children are Atlanta Public School graduates, and the youngest is currently attending the Atlanta Girls’ School.
Greg Wilson was raised in Arlington, Virginia. His career highlights include key positions at a major health care foundation, where he served as Corporate Director for Diversity, and Business Manager for the Department of Gastroenterology. In municipal government, Greg worked at the City of Cleveland Ohio, where he served as Director of the Civil Service Commission and also served Assistant Commissioner for the City’s Division of Water. In the latter position, he led over 500 direct reports, including twenty-two labor unions.

At CH2M Hill, Greg leads the Atlanta offices and serves as Georgia Area Manager. His duties include Community Involvement, Business Development, and coordination of activities across ten separate lines of business. Greg also serves as Corporate Chairman for CH2M Hill’s Harambee (African American) Professional Network. As part of this role, Greg helped develop and implement the company’s Mentor-Protégé Program, created to increase capacity for Metro Atlanta’s minority businesses. He also created Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) partnerships with several schools in Metro Atlanta.

Greg earned a B.A. Degree from Virginia State University and Master’s Degree from Carnegie Mellon University. He is a graduate of the Atlanta Regional Commission’s Regional Leadership Institute (RLI) and University of Georgia’s Institute for Environmental Leadership (IGEL). He currently serves as Board Chairman for Verdant Elements, Inc., a non-profit organization focused on sustainable development and healthy lifestyles for the underserved communities in Metro Atlanta.

Greg is married to Pauline Malone-Wilson and is a proud and loving father of three children. In his spare time, he enjoys photography, golf and cooking. Greg and his family worship at North Point Community Church. He is a member of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Inc.
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North Carolina President
Charlotte Market Area President, Bank of America

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Philanthropist
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Marvin Woods
Chef, Author and Television Host

James E. Young
President & CEO
Citizens Trust Bank

Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, ‘What are you doing for others?’

- Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.
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