

An Evening with a Delaware Hero: A Conversation with Leonard Williams, Esq.



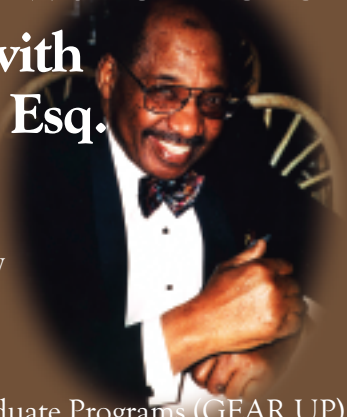
Bayard-Sharp Hall
4:30 p.m. Reception

November 9, 2006
5:30 p.m. Conversation

Leonard Williams, Esq., a native of Wilmington, enrolled in the University of Delaware two years after *Parker v. University of Delaware*, the decision that desegregated UD in 1950. He was a football star as well as an outstanding academic student. After graduating, Williams attended Georgetown University Law School. He returned to Delaware in the late 1950s and practiced law with Louis L. Redding until Redding's retirement. Williams worked with Redding on many important civil rights cases including, among others, *Evans v. Buchanan*, the New Castle school desegregation litigation. He also served as a municipal judge in Wilmington.

RSVP by October 30 to Wanda Moore (wlm@udel.edu or 302-831-8971).

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Program Sponsors

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Pre-Presentation Reception

At 4:30 p.m. guests will have light refreshments and welcome Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Williams to campus.

Program Purpose

The purpose of this program is to engage UD stakeholders in a conversation about the access of African Americans to educational opportunities at the University of Delaware. Williams's success at UD during the era of official segregation should serve as an inspiration for minority students and other members of the UD community.

Program Focus

The program will focus on the experiences of African Americans during the early years of desegregation, by allowing a prominent member of the Wilmington community and 1954 graduate of the University to describe the early admissions process and features of campus life.

“Conversation” Format

At 5:30 p.m. in an informal setting assembled as a “living room” on a stage, a two-hour discussion will be convened and presented in two segments:

- The moderator/host will introduce Leonard Williams and pose a series of questions that will allow Williams to tell his “UD story” with the moderator connecting it, as appropriate, to the Parker v. University of Delaware case and the history of school desegregation efforts in Delaware and the United States.
- Audience members will pose questions that will likely connect Williams’s story to UD’s current admissions issues and a range of campus climate issues.