

host



**TAVIS SMILEY**  
*Television and Radio Host, Author,  
and Philanthropist*

With his late night television talk show, *Tavis Smiley* on PBS, and his radio show, *The Tavis Smiley Show from NPR*, Tavis Smiley was the first American ever to simultaneously host signature talk shows on both PBS and National Public Radio. Smiley's television show is now in its second season. Texas Southern University recently honored Smiley with the opening of Tavis Smiley School of Communications and Tavis Smiley Center for Professional Media Studies, making Smiley the youngest African American to have a professional school and center named after him on a college or university campus. Smiley also offers political commentary twice weekly on the *Tom Joyner Morning Show*. In addition, he has authored eight books and has his own imprint, Smiley Books, with Hay House.

co-host



**TOM JOYNER**  
*Radio Host and Activist*

He's been called the "Fly Jock" and the "Hardest Working Man in Radio." Tom Joyner is the ultimate breakfast host as the star of Reach Media's the *Tom Joyner Morning Show*. Each weekday from 5:00 AM to 9:00 AM (CT), Joyner invites a nationwide audience of millions into his studio home. Joyner is a four-time *Billboard* magazine award winner and was inducted into the Radio Hall of Fame. His other honors include the Mickey Leland Humanitarian Award from the Congressional Black Caucus, "Man of the Year" from 100 Black Men of America, and the President's Award from the NAACP. Joyner is also the founder of the Tom Joyner Foundation and BlackAmericaWeb.com.

moderator



**RAYMOND M. BROWN**  
*Law Professor,  
Trial Lawyer, and  
Television Anchor*

Raymond Brown is a professor of law at Seton Hall University School of Law and a professor at Seton Hall University's John C. Whitehead School of Diplomacy and International Relations, where he teaches a course with his wife, Wanda Akin-Brown. He is the host/anchor of New Jersey Network's *Due Process*, a six-time Emmy Award-winning public affairs television program, and a trial lawyer in private practice with his father. Brown has moderated all of the *State of the Black Union* symposiums sponsored by Tavis Smiley Presents.

afternoon welcome



**CORETTA SCOTT KING**  
*The King Center*

Since her husband's assassination in 1968, Coretta Scott King has devoted herself to developing programs and building the Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta. As the Center's founding President, Chair, and CEO, Mrs. King heads programs that have trained tens of thousands in Dr. King's philosophy and methods. The recipient of more than 50 major awards and honorary doctorates from over 40 colleges and universities, Mrs. King has traveled worldwide to speak on behalf of racial and economic justice, religious freedom, dignity and human rights for women, children, gays and lesbians, the disabled, educational opportunities, universal health care, nuclear disarmament, and environmental protection.

afternoon invocation



**REV. DR. CYNTHIA L. HALE**  
*Founding and  
Senior Pastor,  
Ray of Hope  
Christian Church*

Rev. Dr. Hale established Ray of Hope Christian Church 18 years ago as a four-person Bible study. Today, it has an active membership of 3,500. Previously, Hale served as a chaplain for federal correctional facilities in Colorado and North Carolina. She was also the first woman to serve as Chaplain of the Day for the opening session of the Georgia State Senate in January 2004 and was also honored to serve as Chaplain of the Day for the US House of Representatives in Washington, DC. Hale received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Hollins College in Virginia, earned a Master of Divinity degree from Duke University and a Doctorate of Ministry from United Theological Seminary.



**DR. THOMAS A. PARHAM,  
PH.D.**

*Assistant Vice Chancellor for Counseling and Health Services, Director of the Counseling Center, and Professor at the University of California, Irvine*

For the past twenty plus years, Dr. Thomas A. Parham has focused his research efforts in the area of psychological nigrescence, racial identity development, and multicultural counseling. Prior to his current position, he served as director of the Career and Life Planning Center and the Counseling Center at UCI. Before returning to UCI, Parham held an appointment on the faculty at the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia. He is the coauthor of the textbook entitled *The Psychology of Blacks: An African American Perspective*. Parham is also a past president of the National Association of Black Psychologists.



**DR. ROBERT L. JOHNSON,  
M.D., FAAP**

*Professor and Chair of Pediatrics  
Professor of Psychiatry and Director  
of the Division of Adolescent and Young  
Adult Medicine of the University of  
Medicine and Dentistry of New Jersey*

Dr. Robert L. Johnson currently serves on the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services Council on Graduate Medical Education and on the boards of Health Care Services and Law and Justice of the National Academy of Sciences. Johnson's research focuses on adolescent physical and mental health, adolescent HIV, adolescent violence, adolescent fatherhood, and risk prevention/reduction programs with specific emphasis on substance and alcohol abuse, sexuality and sexual dysfunction, male sexual abuse, suicide, and AIDS. Johnson has become a well-recognized spokesperson for adolescent issues. Yearly, he addresses many local, state, national, and international audiences while conducting an active schedule of teaching, research, and clinical practice at the New Jersey Medical School. His book, *Strength for Their Journey*, a guide for parents of African American teens, was published by Doubleday in the fall of 2002.



**DR. IAN SMITH, M.D.**  
*Physician and Author*

Dr. Ian Smith is currently a medical contributor to ABC's nationally syndicated *The View* and a medical columnist for *Men's Health* magazine.

Smith is the former medical correspondent for NBC News network and for NewsChannel 4 and has been honored by several organizations, including the National Academy of Television Arts & Sciences, for his coverage of the momentous events beginning on September 11, 2001. He is also the author of three books including *The Blackbird Papers*, *Dr. Ian Smith's Guide to Medical Websites*, and *The Take-Control Diet*.



**DR. RISA LAVIZZO-MOUREY,  
M.D., M.B.A.**

*President and CEO, Robert Wood  
Johnson Foundation*

Prior to coming to the foundation, Dr. Risa Lavizzo-Mourey was the Sylvan Eisman Professor of Medicine and Health

Care Systems at the University of Pennsylvania, as well as director of the Institute on Aging. Under both Democratic and Republican administrations, Lavizzo-Mourey was the deputy administrator of the Agency for Health Care Policy and Research within the Department of Health and Human Services. While in government service, Lavizzo-Mourey worked on the White House Health Care Policy team and the White House Task Force on Health Care Reform where she cochaired the working group on Quality of Care. Recently, Lavizzo-Mourey completed work as codirector of a congressionally requested Institute of Medicine study on racial disparities in health care, which resulted in the publication of *Unequal Treatment: Confronting Racial and Ethnic Disparities in Health Care*.



**DR. GEORGES C. BENJAMIN,  
M.D., FACP**

*Executive Director,  
American Public Health Association*

Dr. Georges C. Benjamin has been the executive director of the American Public Health Association since January 2003. Previously he was secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, where he played a key role developing Maryland's bioterrorism plan. Benjamin became secretary of the Maryland health department in 1999, after four years as its deputy secretary for public health services. Benjamin is a graduate of the Illinois Institute of Technology and the University of Illinois College of Medicine. His career has included positions as chief of the Acute Illness Clinic at Madigan Army Medical Center in Tacoma, Wash.; chief of emergency medicine at Walter Reed Army Medical Center; chairman of the department of community health and ambulatory care at the District of Columbia General Hospital; interim director of the District's Emergency Ambulatory Bureau; and District of Columbia health commissioner.



**DONNA RICHARDSON**

*Fitness Expert*

Donna Richardson is recognized as one of the premier fitness gurus in America. A former national aerobic champion, Richardson has starred in more than 25 award-winning exercise videos. She is executive producer and host of *The Donna Richardson Show: Mind, Body, and Spirit* on the TV-ONE Network and *Sweating in the Spirit* on The Word Network. Richardson is a National Spokesperson for McDonald's "Go Active Program" and a fitness consultant and advisory board member for the Boys and Girls Club of America, the Black Cardiologist Association, and Walgreens. Richardson has appeared as the fitness expert for ESPN's *Fitness Pros*, NBC's *Weekend Today Show*, and her husband's show, the *Tom Joyner Morning Show*. In 1996, she was featured as one of the "Top 5 Fitness Video Instructors" on *Oprah*. She is currently on tour across the country with her health initiative campaign, "Fighting Obesity."



**JACKIE JOYNER-KERSEE**

*Olympic Gold Medalist*

Jackie Joyner-Kersey is considered one of the greatest athletes of all time. *Sports Illustrated for Women* voted Joyner-Kersey Female Athlete of the 20th Century and ESPN named her one of the 50 Greatest Athletes. Under her leadership, the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Foundation raised more than \$12 million to build a safe haven where young people could learn, play, and contribute back to their community. In 2000, she realized her vision when she proudly opened the Jackie Joyner-Kersey Center in her hometown of East St. Louis, Illinois. The center offers a variety of educational and recreational activities for youth and adults, including after-school tutoring, youth sports leagues, nutrition and health education, and fitness and meals for seniors.



**FAYE WATTLETON**

*President, Center for the  
Advancement of Women*

The Center for Advancement of Women is an independent, nonpartisan, nonprofit research and education institution. Prior to her appointment, Faye Wattleton served for 14 years as the president of the Planned Parenthood Federation of America. Under her leadership, Planned Parenthood grew to become the nation's seventh largest charitable organization, providing medical and educational services to 4,000,000 Americans each year through 170 affiliates operating in 49 states and the District of Columbia. Wattleton holds a BS degree in nursing from Ohio State University and a master of science degree in maternal and infant care, with certification as a nurse-midwife from Columbia University. Her memoir, *Life on the Line*, was published in the fall of 1996 by Ballantine Books.



**PHILL WILSON**

*Founder and Executive Director,  
Black AIDS Institute*

Phill Wilson is the founder and executive director of the Black AIDS Institute, the only Black HIV/AIDS think tank in the United States. The mission of the Institute is to stop the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Black communities by mobilizing Black institutions and individuals. Prior to founding the Institute, Wilson served as the AIDS coordinator for the City of Los Angeles and the director of policy and planning at AIDS Project Los Angeles. He has been involved in the founding of a number of other AIDS service and community-based organizations, including the Chris Brownlie Hospice, the AIDS Healthcare Foundation, and the National Minority AIDS Council. Wilson's articles have been published in the *Los Angeles Times*, the *New York Times*, *Essence*, *Ebony*, and *Jet*. Wilson is a graduate of Illinois Wesleyan University.



**DR. RONALD L. COPELAND  
M.D., F.A.C.S.**

*President and Executive Medical  
Director, Ohio Permanente Medical  
Group (OPMG)*

Since 1998, Dr. Ronald L. Copeland has had overall executive responsibility for all clinical care services provided to Kaiser Permanente members in the Ohio Region. Copeland is a Board Certified General Surgeon, a fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and continues with a limited medical practice, as well. In addition, he is active on the boards of the American Heart Association, the American Red Cross, and the Minority Organ Tissue and Transplant Educational Program (MOTTEP). Copeland is a frequent lecturer on leadership development, culturally competent care, and community health issues, and has received numerous awards and recognitions for his efforts.



**DR. L. NATALIE CARROLL,  
M.D.**

*Chair, Institute for the Advancement of  
Multicultural and Minority Medicine*

Dr. L. Natalie Carroll is the Chair of the Institute for the Advancement of Multicultural and Minority Medicine and the Immediate Past President of the National Medical Association, serving as President from August 2002 through August 2003. The Institute was established to help eliminate health disparities through advocacy and program development. With a distinguished record in medical education and administration, Carroll is also an Associate Clinical Instructor and a member of the Quality Assurance Sub-Committee for Obstetrics/Gynecology with the University of Texas Health Science Center in Houston in association with Hermann Memorial Hospital. A member of the Alpha Omega Alpha Honor Society, Carroll is an active board member of several organizations that address the health and welfare of women and children, including the Texas Department of Health Advisory Board Commission on Birth Defects and Genetic Abnormalities and the Harris County Children's Protective Services.



**DR. JIFUNZA C. A. WRIGHT,  
M.P.H., M.D.**

*Holistic Family Medicine Group*

Inspired to follow in her grandmother's footsteps as a healer, Dr. Jifunza C. A. Wright studied herbs, supplements, and natural treatments for chronic diseases, including body mind therapies. A family physician by training, Wright obtained her Masters in Public Health with a focus in Community Health Services and Administration. She has designed, implemented and participated in community-based programs to address disparities in communities of color. Investigating "Preventive Interventions of High Risk Sexual Behaviors Among African American Adolescents and Pre-adolescents," Wright has received research- and community- based service awards for her work. Her Natural Medicine Family Practice in Chicago, Illinois, provides wellness-oriented preventative care, specializing in Natural Women's Health and Natural Pediatrics.



**DENNIS WAYNE ARCHER**  
*Chairman, Dickinson Wright, PLLC*

In 2003, Dennis Archer became the first person of color elected to the highest office of the American Bar Association. He served two four-year terms as mayor of Detroit (1994-2001) and was president of the National League of Cities in 2001. He was named one of the “25 Most Dynamic Mayors in America” by *Newsweek* magazine and one of the 100 Most Powerful Attorneys in the United States by the *National Law Journal*. After leaving office, he was elected chairman of Dickinson Wright, PLLC, a large Detroit-based law firm. Archer began his career as a trial lawyer, became a partner in several Detroit firms, and served as associate professor of the Detroit College of Law and adjunct professor at Wayne State University Law School. Archer earned a Bachelor’s Degree in education from Western Michigan University and received his law degree from Detroit College of Law.



**WADE HENDERSON**  
*Executive Director, Leadership Conference on Civil Rights*

Wade Henderson is the executive director of the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights and counsel to the Leadership Conference on Civil Rights Education Fund. The organization is the nation’s premier civil and human rights coalition, created to promote the passage and implementation of civil rights laws designed to end discrimination and achieve equal opportunity for all Americans. Henderson works on issues involving nationwide election reform, federal judicial appointments, public education reform, hate crimes, criminal justice reform, issues of immigration and refugee policy, and human rights. Previously, he was Washington bureau director of the NAACP. He also served as associate director of the Washington national office of the ACLU, where he began his career as legislative counsel. Henderson is a graduate of Howard University and the Rutgers University School of Law.



**BISHOP EDDIE L. LONG**  
*Senior Pastor, New Birth Missionary Baptist Church*

Since Eddie L. Long began serving as its pastor in 1987, New Birth Missionary Baptist Church congregation has grown from 300 to 25,000. To accommodate the tremendous growth of church membership, several building expansion plans have been realized under Long’s direction, culminating in a 10,000-seat complex completed in spring 2001. He is the founder and CEO of New Birth’s Faith Academy and serves as the vice chair of the Morehouse School of Religion Board of Directors. Long earned a BA in business administration from North Carolina Central University and a master’s of divinity degree from Atlanta’s Interdenominational Theological Center. Long is also the author of several books including *Power of a Wise Woman*, *What a Man Wants*, *What a Woman Needs*, *Called to Conquer*, and *I Don’t Want Delilah, I Need You*.



**ANGELA GLOVER BLACKWELL**  
*President, PolicyLink*

Angela Glover Blackwell is president of PolicyLink, a national nonprofit research, communications, capacity-building, and advocacy organization. PolicyLink is committed to “Lifting Up What Works®” by advancing a new generation of policies to achieve economic and social equity based on the wisdom, voice, and experience of local leaders who are shaping successful solutions to national problems. Prior to founding PolicyLink, Blackwell served as senior vice president for the Rockefeller Foundation, directing its domestic and cultural divisions and developing the Next Generation Leadership and Building Democracy programs. Blackwell is also a coauthor of *Searching for the Uncommon Common Ground: New Dimensions on Race in America*. Blackwell earned a bachelor’s degree from Howard University and a law degree from the University of California at Berkeley.



**DR. CORNEL WEST**  
*Author and Professor,  
Princeton University*

Dr. Cornel West is the Class of 1943 University Professor of Religion at Princeton University. Prior to his Princeton appointment, he taught at Yale, Union Theological Seminary, and was the Alphonse Fletcher Jr. University Professor at Harvard University, where he taught Afro-American Studies and the Philosophy of Religion. He is the author of numerous articles and 20 books including *Democracy Matters* and *Race Matters*. His latest project is *Street Knowledge*, a spoken word compilation CD. West is also a guest lecturer at colleges and universities across the country.



**JEHMU GREENE**  
*President, Rock the Vote*

Rock the Vote is a nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering young people to participate in the political process. Jehmu Greene oversees operations from the headquarters in Los Angeles, with offices in New York City and Washington, D.C., and is the chief spokesperson for the organization. Previously, Greene was director of Women's Outreach, Southern political director at the Democratic National Committee, and program director for the Center for Policy Alternatives' Youth Voices Project.



**PATRICIA A. FORD**  
*Chair-Elect, National Coalition  
on Black Civic Participation*

Devoting nearly four decades to advocacy and labor movement organization, Patricia Ford serves as Special Assistant to the President for Civic Affairs of the Metropolitan Washington Council, AFL-CIO. Ford was previously the Campaign Director of Unity '04, a nationwide voter registration/voter mobilization drive coordinated by the National Coalition on Black Civic Participation. Elected in 1996 and re-elected in 2000 as International Executive Vice President of the Service Employees International Union (SEIU), Ford is one of the highest-ranking African Americans in a North American union and among the most influential Black women in the labor movement. In the early 1970's, starting as a clerk at Alameda County's Highland Hospital in Northern California, Ford led a successful effort to affiliate the union with SEIU as Local 616. There, Ford served as lead negotiator in bargaining the first domestic partner benefits extended to any group of workers in Alameda County.



**THE HONORABLE MINISTER  
LOUIS FARRAKHAN**  
*Nation of Islam*

The Nation of Islam under the leadership of Louis Farrakhan is the catalyst for the growth and development of Islam in America. In 1955, Farrakhan, born Louis Eugene Walcott, left a successful career in music to dedicate his life to the teachings of the Honorable Elijah Muhammad. Rising to the rank of minister, Farrakhan led Temple No. 11 in Boston, Massachusetts, building it into one of the strongest temples in the Nation. In 1965, following the death of Malcolm X, Farrakhan was appointed to lead Temple No. 7 in New York City. More recently, Farrakhan and the Nation of Islam organized the successful Million Man March. Farrakhan continues to lecture across the country and around the world, sharing pulpits with Christian ministers and being received by many heads of state including South African President Nelson Mandela.



**DR. JOSEPH E. LOWERY**  
*Chairman, Black Leadership Forum  
 Founder & President Emeritus, Southern  
 Christmas Leadership Conference (SCLC)*

Dr. Joseph Echols Lowery is one of the founders of SCLC (1957) and served as vice president until 1967, when he was nominated by Dr. King to serve as first chairman of the board. He served as president and CEO until he retired at the 1997 convention in Atlanta. During his tenure, Lowery led a number of protests and rallies including a 2,000-mile pilgrimage from Alabama to Washington. Lowery also served as governor of the Coordinating Council of Black Farm Groups to gain justice for thousands of farmers who have lost millions of acres of land. Lowery studied at Alabama A&M, Knoxville College, Payne College and Seminary, Wayne University, and Chicago Ecumenical Institute. He holds BA, BD, and DD degrees and numerous honorary doctorates.



**REVEREND AL SHARPTON**  
*Civil Rights Activist  
 Founder and President,  
 National Action Network*

Reverend Al Sharpton is one of America's foremost leaders on civil rights. For more than two decades he has played a major role in virtually every significant movement for civil liberty, community empowerment, and economic equality. As founder and president of the National Action Network, Sharpton heads an organization that fights for progressive people-based policies against the rising conservative trend. Joined by former New York City Mayor Ed Koch and Harvard law professor Charles Ogletree, he formed "Second Chance," a program for nonviolent felony offenders who have served their prison sentences. The story of Sharpton's career is recounted in his autobiography, *Go and Tell Pharaoh*.



**DR. M. JOYCELYN ELDERS, M.D.**  
*Former U.S. Surgeon General*

On July 1, 1993, Dr. M. Joycelyn Elders was nominated as Surgeon General of the U.S. Public Health Service by President Bill Clinton. She was confirmed by the Senate on September 7, sworn into office on September 8, and then served in the post until January 1995. She then returned to the University of Arkansas Children's Hospital as a physician and to the University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences as a pediatric endocrinologist. Elders is also a former director of the Arkansas Department of Health. She retired from the University of Arkansas Children's Hospital in 1998.



**EDDIE N. WILLIAMS**  
*President Emeritus, Joint Center  
 for Political and Economic Studies*

Under Eddie N. Williams' leadership from 1972 to 2004, the Joint Center earned a national reputation as "the premiere Black think tank"; it conducts research and analyses on major public policy issues of special concern to African Americans and other communities of color. Before coming to the Joint Center, Williams was vice president for public affairs and director of the Center for Policy Study at the University of Chicago. He has also held positions in foreign affairs on the U.S. Senate Foreign Relations Committee and with the U.S. Department of State and was a frequent guest commentator on the *MacNeil-Lehrer News Hour* on PBS in the early 1990s. Currently, he is president and CEO of his newly formed consulting firm in Washington, D.C., Eddie Williams and Associates.



**CORY A. BOOKER**  
*President, Newark Now*  
*Partner, Booker, Rabinowitz, et al.*

Cory A. Booker is a partner in the Newark, New Jersey, law firm of Booker, Rabinowitz, et al., and is the president of Newark Now, a grassroots nonprofit group. In 1997, Booker rose to prominence by upsetting a four-term incumbent to become Newark's Central Ward Councilman. During his four years of service, Booker earned a reputation as a leader with innovative ideas and bold actions, from increasing security in public housing to building new playgrounds. For this work, he was recognized by *Time* magazine as the "The Savior of Newark." Booker received his BA in political science and an MA in sociology from Stanford University and then went to Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, receiving an honors degree in modern history. He earned his law degree from Yale University.



**CONGRESSMAN JOHN CONYERS JR.**  
*D-Michigan*

Serving in Congress since 1964, John Conyers Jr. is the second most senior member in the House of Representatives. Conyers is also one of the 13 founding members of the Congressional Black Caucus. Leading the Democratic side of the Judiciary Committee, which oversees the Department of Justice, (including the FBI), and the Federal Courts, Conyers has introduced and endorsed legislation to advance civil liberties, ensure equal protection and access to the voting booth and combat violence against women. Since 9-11, he has also worked to strike a balance between keeping our country safe from terrorism and protecting the civil liberties of our citizens. Conyers has led efforts in Congress to reform the health care system. He is founder and chairman of the Congressional Universal Health Care Task Force—a 45-member caucus whose mission is to pass universal health care legislation by 2005.



**DR. JULIANNE MALVEAUX, PH.D.**  
*President and CEO, Last Word Productions, Inc.*

Dr. Julianne Malveaux, an economist, author, and commentator, is the president and CEO of Last Word Productions, Inc., a multimedia production company. Recognized for her provocative, progressive, and insightful observations, Malveaux has helped shape public opinion in 21st-century America with her contributions to the public dialogue on issues such as race, culture, gender, and their economic counterparts. As a writer and columnist, her work appears regularly in *USA Today*, *Black Issues in Higher Education*, *MS* magazine, *Essence*, and the *Progressive*. A committed activist and civic leader, Malveaux serves on several boards including the Economic Policy Institute, the National Committee for Responsive Philanthropy, and Women Building for the Future—Future PAC. Malveaux holds BA and MA degrees in economics from Boston College and a Ph.D. in economics from MIT.



**MARIE F. SMITH**  
*President, American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)*

Marie F. Smith was sworn in as the 21st president of the AARP at the organization's National Leadership Conference in April 2004. With a wealth of leadership experience in Social Security and a strong commitment to women's, multiethnic, and aging issues, Smith will focus on retirement security issues during her presidency. She previously chaired AARP's National Legislative Council and was a spokesperson for the AARP's Women's Initiative Program. During her career, Smith has held several senior managerial positions with the Social Security Administration, including the director of Manpower Management and Organization Planning. Additionally, she has served on several boards, including the Maui Volunteer Center and the Interfaith Volunteer Caregivers, and was appointed by the governor of Hawaii as commissioner on the Status of Women.



**CONSTANCE L. RICE**

*Co-Founder, The Advancement Project*

Connie Rice is known for success in tackling problems of inequity and exclusion. As a litigator, she has filed class action civil rights cases redressing police misconduct, race and sex discrimination, and unfair public policy in transportation, probation, and public housing. She filed a landmark case on behalf of low-income bus riders that resulted in a mandate that more than \$2 billion be spent to improve the bus system. Rice began her career as a law clerk to the Honorable Damon J. Keith, judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit, and worked as an associate at Morrison & Foerster. She became co-director of LDF's Los Angeles office in 1996. *California Law Business* named her one of California's Top 10 Most Influential Lawyers. Rice graduated from Harvard College and earned her law degree from New York University School of Law.



**KEITH BOYKIN**

*Author and Commentator*

Keith Boykin is the author of the new book, *Beyond the Down Low: Sex, Lies, and Denial in Black America*. A graduate of Dartmouth College and Harvard Law School, Boykin has become one of the nation's leading commentators on the intersection of race, sexuality, and politics. After serving as a top White House aide to President Bill Clinton, Boykin taught political science at American University in Washington, D.C. Boykin has appeared on BET, CNN, Fox News, and NPR, and has been featured in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, and *USA Today*. He is the author of *One More River to Cross: Black and Gay in America* and the Lambda Literary Award-winning book, *Respecting the Soul*. Boykin is president of the board of the National Black Justice Coalition.



**MICHAEL ERIC DYSON, PH.D.**

*Author and Professor  
University of Pennsylvania*

Named by *Essence* magazine as one of the 50 most inspiring African Americans, Rev. Dr. Michael Eric Dyson is the author of the 2004 NAACP Image Award winner for outstanding nonfiction literary work, *Why I Love Black Women* and the national best-seller *Open Mike: Reflections on Philosophy, Race, Sex, Culture and Religion*. He is the Avalon Foundation Professor in the Humanities and Professor of Religious Studies and Africana Studies at the University of Pennsylvania. An in-demand lecturer, ordained Baptist minister and frequent guest on television talk show, Dyson has been described by the *Washington Post* as a "superstar professor . . . who plies his craft at the crossroads of public policy, celebrity, and academia." Due out in April, Dyson's eleventh book, *Is Bill Cosby Right? Or Has the Black Middle Class Lost Its Mind?* will be published by Basic Civitas Books.



**DONNA BRAZILE**

*Founder and Managing Director,  
Brazile & Associates, LLC*

Donna Brazile is a senior political strategist and former campaign manager for Gore-Lieberman 2000—the first African American to lead a major presidential campaign. Brazile currently serves as chair of the Democratic National Committee's Voting Rights Institute and as an adjunct professor at Georgetown University. Brazile is also a weekly contributor and political commentator on CNN's *Inside Politics* and *American Morning* and a columnist for *Roll Call* newspaper. Prior to the Gore campaign, Brazile was chief of staff and press secretary to Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton of the District of Columbia where she helped guide the district's budget and local legislation on Capitol Hill. Brazile has worked on several campaigns for Democratic candidates, including Rev. Jesse Jackson's first historic bid for presidency in 1984 and the Clinton-Gore elections of '92 and '96. Brazile earned her undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University.



**REV. JESSE L. JACKSON SR.**

*President and Founder,  
Rainbow/PUSH Coalition*

The Reverend Jesse Louis Jackson is one of America's foremost political figures. Known as "the great unifier," he

has played a pivotal role in virtually every movement for empowerment, peace, civil rights, gender equality, and economic and social justice. He was the first Black man to make a serious bid for the U.S. presidency and served as one of the District of Columbia's non-voting senators. Jackson began his career as a student leader in the sit-in movement and as assistant to Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Since then, Reverend Jackson has received numerous honors for his work in human and civil rights, including the Presidential Medal of Freedom awarded by President Bill Clinton in 2000. Jackson graduated from North Carolina A&T and attended Chicago Theological Seminary.



**WILLIAM LUCY**

*International Secretary-Treasurer  
American Federation of State, County,  
and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO*

William Lucy is the International Secretary-Treasurer of the 1.4 million-

member American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees (AFSCME), AFL-CIO. In addition, Lucy was named a member of the AFL-CIO Executive Council and is vice president of the Maritime Trades Department and Department for Professional Employees. With a special interest in international affairs, Lucy became the president of Public Services International, the world's largest union federation, in 1994. He is a founder and the president of the Coalition of Black Trade Unionists, an organization of union leaders and rank-and-file members dedicated to the unique needs of African Americans and minority group workers. A civil engineer by trade, Lucy was an assistant materials and research engineer for Contra Costa County, California and became president of AFSCME Local 1675 in 1965.



**BISHOP VASHTI MCKENZIE**

*African Methodist Episcopal Church*

Bishop Vashti Murphy McKenzie is the first woman in the history of the AME Church to serve as bishop and also the first woman to become the president

of the Council of Bishops, making her the highest-ranking woman in the Black Methodist denomination. She is the presiding prelate of the 13th Episcopal District, which includes Tennessee and Kentucky. Previously, she served as chief pastor of the 18th Episcopal District (south east African nations of Lesotho, Botswana, Mozambique and Swaziland) and pastor of the historic Payne Memorial AME Church. McKenzie is the author of three books: *Not Without a Struggle*, *Strength in the Struggle*, and *Journey to the Well*. A graduate of the University of Maryland, College Park, McKenzie received a master of divinity degree from Howard University School of Divinity and a doctor of ministry degree from United Theological Seminary.



**BISHOP HARRY R. JACKSON JR.**

*High Impact Leadership Coalition,  
Hope Christian Church*

Bishop Harry R. Jackson Jr., a national evangelical Christian leader, is president and chairman of the High Impact Leadership Coalition and senior pastor of Hope Christian Church in the Washington DC area. The High Impact Leadership Coalition is a grassroots organization that seeks to close the gap between righteousness and justice from a biblical perspective in America. The recent unveiling and nationwide promotion of its "Black Contract with America on Moral Values" features six key areas: the reconstruction of the family (including biblical, traditional marriage), wealth creation in urban areas, education reform, prison reform, healthcare reform and African relief. Jackson has authored four books including *In-Laws*, *Outlaws and The Functional Family* and the Christian Booksellers Association's February 2004 best-seller, *The Warrior's Heart*. Jackson has appeared on the *CBS Nightly News*, *BET*, *The O'Reilly Factor* on Fox, and *TBN*.