

Washburn University School of Law and the *Washburn Law Journal* proudly present:

45TH

FOULSTON SIEFKIN LECTURE

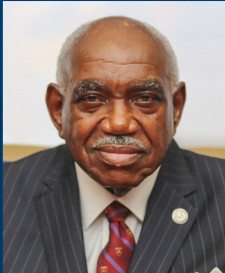
Thursday, March 23, 2023 • 12:30 p.m. CT



A Dream Deferred: The Fight for Desegregation of America's Schools

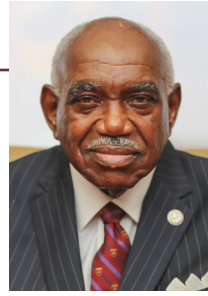
JUDGE U.W. CLEMON

Retired Federal Judge



About the Lecturer

JUDGE U.W. CLEMON RETIRED FEDERAL JUDGE



BIOGRAPHY

Born in Fairfield, Ala. in 1943, U.W. Clemon graduated from the racially segregated Westfield High School as valedictorian of his 1961 class. He then attended Miles College where he participated in a boycott of segregated Birmingham stores and other civil rights demonstrations. He graduated in 1965 as SGA President and, again, as valedictorian of his class. He then received his JD from Columbia Law School, during which he clerked at the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. As an attorney, Clemon focused on fighting segregation through judicial action. In 1974, he was elected one of the first two Black Alabama state senators since Reconstruction. In 1980, President Jimmy Carter appointed Clemon as the first Black federal judge in Alabama history.

When Clemon retired from the federal bench in 2009, he returned to law practice, where he handled one of the most controversial school desegregation cases in this century: *Stout v. Gardendale Board of Education*, in which the court blocked the mostly white City of Gardendale from setting up a separate school system to exclude many black students. Clemon has received numerous awards and honors, including the Distinguished Jurist Award from the Alabama Bar Association, the Stradford Award from the National Bar Association, the Drum Major Award of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, the Johnny Cochran Award of the American Association of Justice, the John Pickering Award of the American Bar Association, and the Thurgood Marshall Award of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. Two years ago, the new U.W. Clemon Elementary School opened in the same Jefferson County School system he attended as a child.

Full bio: <https://go.washburnlaw.edu/clemon-bio>

ABSTRACT

Judge Clemon's presentation will include a history of the *Brown* decision, distinguishing between Southern segregation (*Briggs*) and Northern segregation (*Brown*). It will cover the progress of desegregation between 1954 and 1971, emphasizing the importance of *Milligan v. Bradley* (the Detroit case) and the "do it now" desegregation formula of *Green v. New Kent County*. He will also discuss the current status of segregated schools in the United States, particularly in light of the Supreme Court decision in *Parents Involved v. Seattle School District*. Finally, he will discuss the historical and lingering issue of affirmative action in higher education.

FOULSTON SIEFKIN

Past Lecturers

2022	Professor Daniel Bodansky	1999	Professor Edward J. Larson
2021	Professor Nadine Strossen	1998	The Honorable Alex Kozinski
2019	Professor Matthew Tokson	1997	Professor Burt Neuborne
2018	Professor Ruth Okediji	1996	Professor Derrick Bell
2017	Professor Harold Hongju Koh	1995	Professor Cheryl I. Harris
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2014	Professor Steven J. Eagle	1992	Professor John S. Lowe
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2008	Professor Karl Jorda	1986	Professor Stephen A. Saltzburg
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2006	Professor Marc I. Steinberg	1984	Professor Irving Younger
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2004	Professor Mildred W. Robinson	1982	Professor James J. White
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2002	Professor Rachel F. Moran	1980	Dean David G. Epstein
2001	Professor Joseph A. Sax	1979	Professor Arthur R. Miller
2000	Professor Akhil Reed Amar	1978	Professor Vern Countryman

FOULSTON

ATTORNEYS AT LAW

has sponsored this lecture series since 1978 to enrich the quality of education at Washburn University School of Law.

Articles derived from the lectures are published by the *Washburn Law Journal* and are available at washburnlaw.edu/wlj.



The *Washburn Law Journal* has been Washburn University School of Law's flagship publication since 1960. The *Journal* is edited by a board of ten to thirteen editors and typically has a membership of about thirty-five students per year. Membership is based on a combination of law school grades and a writing competition. On average, the *Washburn Law Journal* publishes between eight and fourteen student Notes and Comments in each volume. Each year, three to six students present their work in a well-attended scholarly forum that generates lively discussion.

The *Washburn Law Journal* produces three issues a year, which make up one volume. One issue traditionally takes the theme of the Foulston Siefkin Lecture, which since 1978 has been sponsored by the Wichita-based firm of Foulston Siefkin LLP. A second issue usually falls under the Board of Editors' creative control; and the third issue takes the theme of the Law School's annual symposium, which is co-sponsored by the *Journal*. The *Journal* is frequently cited by the Kansas Supreme Court and Court of Appeals, as well as by numerous other scholarly publications.

