

MEN
OF
INFLUENCE
ATLANTA BUSINESS LEAGUE



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ONE LETTER
ENDLESS EXPRESSIONS



Bem Joiner
Contributor

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ATLANTA BUSINESS LEAGUE

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Foreword



Andrella Kenner
ABL Board Chair

*Founder &
Chief Executive Officer*
CI² Aviation Incorporated

Welcome! We are absolutely thrilled to have you with us as we celebrate an extraordinary group—eleven (11) African American men whose remarkable achievements have truly set them apart! Tonight isn't just another gathering; it's a powerful tribute to men who embody excellence, leadership, and inspiration. Each honoree is the very reason this event exists, and their stories are what make this evening shine.

The Men of Influence Reception and Induction Ceremony was born out of a powerful need. Back in 2007, there was a major gap: our metro community needed to see and celebrate the full spectrum of African American professionals leading at the highest levels. It was time for these accomplished men to step into the spotlight and receive the accolades they had truly earned! Recognizing this need, the ABL staff and board, led by Chair Thomas W. Dortch, Jr., launched the Men of Influence evening. Since then, the tradition has continued—and in 2025, we are just as enthusiastic about honoring high-achieving Black men, because their stories still need to be told!



Leona Barr-Davenport
President & CEO
Atlanta Business League

This year, we are bursting with pride to introduce you to nine inspiring honorees! Among them are passionate servant leaders, dedicated ministers, visionary corporate leaders, innovative intrapreneurs, and nonprofit champions who lift up our entire community. We have a trailblazing journalist, successful entrepreneurs, a global leader at a multinational corporation, and a standout leader in county government. Each man is a true 2025 Man of Influence—and it's our joy to tell their stories tonight!

We are also thrilled to present two special awards:

- **Legends Hall of Fame:** This year's honor goes to Steve Randall Allen, an internationally celebrated artist who has helped the United Negro College Fund (UNCF) open doors for countless Black students. Known for his role as the Official Artist of the United States Olympic & Paralympic Committee since 1996, Mr. Allen's impact is both artistic and deeply personal.
- **Legacy Award:** We pause to remember and honor Trailblazer Attorney Thomas Sampson, our Legacy Award recipient. As co-founder of Georgia's first Black-owned law firm, he dared to chart a path for future generations of Black attorneys and minority professionals everywhere.

The Men of Influence celebration isn't about fame or titles—it's about heart. It's about unshakeable commitment, unwavering dedication, and steadfast faithfulness. Each honoree has made promises to their families, their communities, and themselves—and they have kept those promises, even when the road was hard. The board and staff of the Atlanta Business League are honored to showcase these incredible men. We thank you for joining us tonight—your presence and support makes this celebration truly special!

Let's cheer, honor, and be inspired together!



ATLANTA BUSINESS LEAGUE

19th Annual Men of Influence Overview

For nearly two decades, the Atlanta Business League (ABL) has honored outstanding business owners, professionals, and civic leaders across metropolitan Atlanta. In 2025, the ABL proudly presents its list of Atlanta's Influential Black Men, who will be featured in print and celebrated during a distinguished pinning ceremony and reception.

The Men of Influence list recognizes Black men in metro Atlanta who have excelled in senior-level leadership roles, built thriving businesses, reached significant career milestones, or demonstrated the ability to influence major public and governmental bodies. Equally important, these honorees have displayed an unwavering dedication to community service and civic engagement, enriching the lives of countless residents.

This year's program will also include the induction of a remarkable trailblazer into the Legends Hall of Fame. This prestigious recognition honors pioneers whose leadership, achievements, and contributions have created lasting legacies that continue to shape and inspire future generations.

Through this event, ABL provides a unique educational and networking experience for audiences of all ages—from middle school students to seasoned executives. By showcasing these influential men, we aim to inspire hope, affirm opportunities, and highlight the vital role African American men play in business, leadership, and community advancement. This initiative remains a key component of ABL's mission as an information clearinghouse for Black business development and empowerment.

Legacy Recognition

The Legacy Award is presented posthumously to a legend whose efforts and good deeds will outlast the test of time and positively impact the community and the world for generations to come.



**THE HONORABLE MAYNARD
HOLBROOK JACKSON, JR.**
2007 Legacy
(1938 - 2003)



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



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



ALONZO FRANKLIN HERNDON
2010 Legacy
(1858 - 1927)



DR. HAMILTON EARL HOLMES
2011 Legacy
(1941 - 1995)



CORNELIUS ADOLPHUS SCOTT
2012 Legacy
(1908 - 2000)



JAMES E. YOUNG
2013 Legacy
(1949 - 2012)



DR. ASA G. HILLIARD, III
2014 Legacy
(1933 - 2007)



MR. JESSE HILL, JR.
2015 Legacy
(1926 - 2012)



JUDGE HORACE T. WARD
2016 Legacy
(1927 - 2016)



WILLIAM (BILL) TAGGART
2017 Legacy
(1962 - 2017)



LYNDON A. WADE
2018 Legacy
(1934 - 2017)



REV. DR. CAMERON M. ALEXANDER
2019 Legacy
(1932 - 2018)



**THE HONORABLE
IVORY LEE YOUNG, JR.**
2019 Legacy
(1962 - 2018)

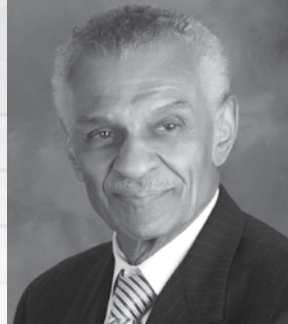


**THE HONORABLE
JOHN LEWIS**
2020 Legacy
(1940 - 2020)

Legacy Recognition



REV. DR. JOSEPH E. LOWERY
2020 Legacy
(1921 - 2020)



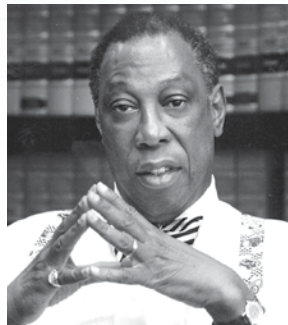
REV. DR. C.T. VIVIAN
2020 Legacy
(1924 - 2020)



HENRY L. "HANK" AARON
2021 Legacy
(1934 - 2021)
Image Provided by
Caselove Productions



THE HONORABLE C.T. MARTIN
2022 Legacy
(1937 - 2021)



**THE HONORABLE
MARVIN ARRINGTON, SR.**
2024 Legacy
(1941 - 2023)



THOMAS G. SAMPSON, SR.
2025 Legacy
(1946 - 2025)

Legends Hall of Fame

Steve R. Allen



Steve R. Allen
Artist

Steve R. Allen is an internationally recognized artist celebrated for his bold use of color and versatility across styles. His work has traveled the globe, featured in world capitals and prestigious collections from Athens to Rio de Janeiro to Beijing. He holds the unique honor of being the “Official Artist” for the U.S. Olympic Committee, with his art showcased at eight Olympic Games.

In 1996, Allen gained international acclaim when commissioned to create *Uniting Colors of the World*, an 80-by-28-foot mural commemorating Atlanta’s hosting of the Centennial Olympic Summer Games. He remains the only artist in the world designated “Official Artist” for the host city of the Centennial Games. Since then, he has continued creating official Olympic art, including *Coming Full Circle* for the 2004 Athens Games, *Olympiqué* for the 2006 Torino Winter Games, and *Spirit of the Games* for the 2002 Salt Lake City Games. Many of these works now reside in the Founding and Permanent Collection of the Smithsonian Institution’s National Museum of African American History and Culture.

In 2013, Allen received a rare lifetime honor when the Smithsonian acquired four of his paintings, recognizing their artistic, cultural, and historical significance. His legacy deepened in 2019 when the Atlanta University Center’s Robert W. Woodruff Library added two of his works, followed in 2020 by Emory University’s Stuart A. Rose Manuscript, Archives, and Rare Book Library acquiring his papers. These acquisitions affirm the academic and historical importance of his art.

Allen’s exhibitions have spanned the globe. In 2023, his *Afro-Futurism and Ancestry* show opened in Rio de Janeiro at MUHCAB (Museum of History and Culture for Afro-Brazilians), later traveling to Galeria Cubo de Vidro at Cefet/RJ University in 2024. His current exhibition, *Ancestral Origins: The Fractal Vision of Steve R. Allen*, is on display at ArtsXchange in East Point, Georgia (February–March 2024). In 2025, Gallery 72, the official City of Atlanta gallery, presented his *Afrofuturism and Ancestry* exhibition.

His Olympic involvement has included presenting *A Bridge of Friendship* to the People of China during the 2008 Beijing Games, *Celebration of Sport Brazil* at the 2007 Pan American Games (now permanently housed in Maracanã Stadium), and *Unity and Peace Through Sport* to Athens City Hall. His art has been unveiled by global figures, including HSH Prince Albert II of Monaco.

Beyond the Olympics, Allen’s art has graced institutions and events worldwide. In 2010, the Government of Brazil invited him as Guest of Honor for Black Consciousness Week in Rio de Janeiro, where he presented *O Jogo Bonito* in celebration of the 2014 World Cup. He also contributed signature imagery for the Bayou Classic, elevating the historic Grambling–Southern football rivalry. His work has appeared in London during the 2012 Games, in San Diego International Airport during the 2010 Vancouver Winter Games, and across the United States.

From monumental murals to internationally exhibited paintings, Steve R. Allen’s career reflects a rare combination of artistic mastery, cultural resonance, and global recognition. His work continues to celebrate unity, history, and the African American experience while inspiring audiences worldwide.

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OMG GIRLZ

RETURN WITH *TEA* AND FIRST TOUR

Legends Hall of Fame

*The Legends Hall of Fame recognizes pioneers
who have paved the way for others to follow.*



2007
HENRY "HANK" AARON
Senior Vice President
Atlanta National League Baseball
Club, Inc.
Owner, Hank Aaron Toyota



2007
**THE HONORABLE
ROBERT BENHAM**
Justice
Supreme Court of Georgia



2007
JESSE HILL, JR.
Retired Chairman & CEO
Atlanta Life Insurance Company



2007
**THE HONORABLE
JOHN LEWIS**
*Representative, Georgia's 5th
Congressional District*
U.S. House of Representatives



2007
**REVEREND DR.
JOSEPH E. LOWERY**
Convenor, Coalition for The Peoples'
Agenda; Chairman Emeritus, Black
Leadership Forum, Inc.; Co-founder,
President Emeritus, Southern Chris-
tian Leadership Conference



2007
HERMAN J. RUSSELL
Chairman
H.J. Russell & Company



2007
DAVID SATCHER, M.D., PH.D.
Director
Center of Excellence
on Health Disparities
Morehouse School of Medicine



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



2007
REVEREND C. T. VIVIAN
Civil Rights Leader and Educator



2007
FELKER WARD, JR.
Principal
 Investment Advisors, LLC



2007
**THE HONORABLE
 HORACE T. WARD**
Senior Judge
 United States District Court



2007
**THE HONORABLE
 ANDREW YOUNG**
Chairman
 GoodWorks International



2008
**REVEREND DR.
 CAMERON M. ALEXANDER**
President Emeritus
 General Missionary Baptist
 Convention of Georgia, Inc.



2008
**SENATOR
 LEROY R. JOHNSON**
Partner
 Leroy R. Johnson & Associates, P.C.



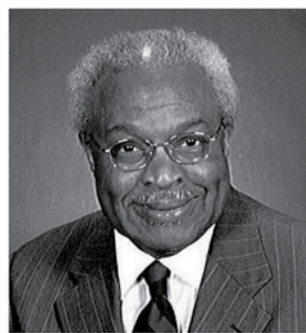
2008
JAMES V. PASCHAL
Founder & Owner
Partner
 Paschal Brothers/
 Paschal Concessions, Inc.



2009
NATHANIEL R. GOLDSTON, III
Founder
 Gourmet Services, Inc.



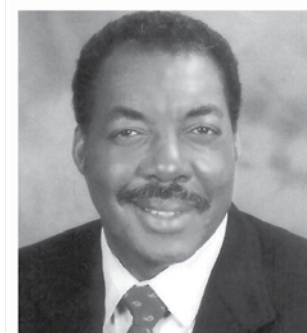
2009
**REVEREND DR.
 WALTER L. KIMBROUGH**
Retired Senior Pastor
 Cascade United Methodist Church



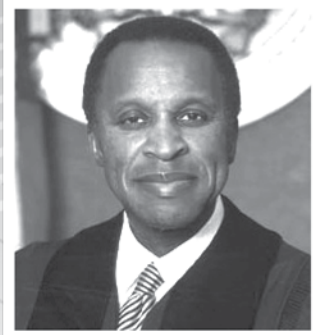
2009
WILLIAM "SONNY" WALKER
Founder & Principal
 The Sonny Walker Group



2010
LEON GOODRUM
Owner/Operator
 Goodrum Enterprises, Inc./
 McDonald's



2010
HANK THOMAS
CEO
 Victoria Hospitality Properties LLC



2011
THE HONORABLE
CLARENCE COOPER
Judge
 United States District Court



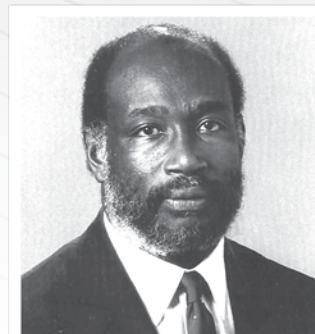
2011
REVEREND JASPER
WILLIAMS
Senior Pastor
 Salem Bible Church



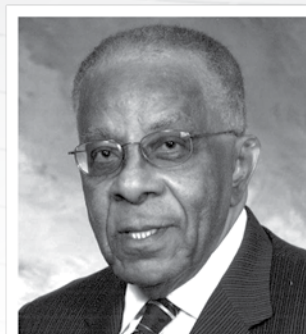
2012
THE HONORABLE C.T. MARTIN
Councilmember
 City of Atlanta



2012
JOHN B. SMITH
Publisher
 The Atlanta Inquirer



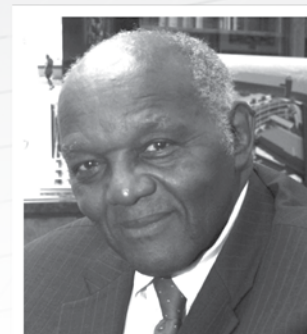
2013
WALTER BELLAMY
Professional Basketball Player
 National Basketball Association



2013
DR. ELRIDGE MCMILLAN
President Emeritus
 Southern Education Foundation



2014
DR. EDWARD IRONS
Retired Dean Emeritus
 Clark Atlanta University
 School of Business



2014
LONNIE C. KING, JR.
Author, Civil Rights Legend
& Founding Member
 Student Non-Violent Coordinating
 Committee (SNCC)



2015
LEE HANEY
Author
Eight-time Mr. Olympia



2015
TEDDY RILEY
Grammy, multi-platinum Music
Producer, Composer, Arranger,
Songwriter and Recording Artist



2015
MICHAEL THURMOND
Counsel, Butler,
Wooten, Cheeley & Peak
Former Superintendent, DeKalb
County School
District



2016
DR. LONNIE G. JOHNSON
Scientist, Engineer, Inventor
President & CEO, Excellatron



2017
ROBERT L. SHANNON, JR.
Major General, (Ret.) USAF
Senior Partner,
Hall Booth Smith, P.C.



2018
DR. OTIS W. BRAWLEY
Chief Medical & Scientific Officer, EVP
American Cancer Society



2018
DOMINIQUE WILKINS
VP of Basketball
Atlanta Hawks



2019
EDWIN MOSES
Olympian



2020
KENNY LEON
Tony Award and Obie Award-winning,
Emmy-nominated Broadway TV Director
Co-Founder
True Colors Theatre Company



2021
MILTON JONES, JR.
Founding Member
Peachtree Providence Partners, LLC



2022
GREGORY T. BARANCO
President & CEO
Mercedes-Benz, Buckhead



2023
WARRICK DUNN
Former NFL Player
Philanthropist



2024
LONNIE SABOOR
Director Small business Development
Invest Atlanta



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- B.A. General Studies
- B.S. Psychology
- B.S. Organizational Management and Leadership
- B.S. Global Management and Applied Leadership
 - *ESports Performance Concentration*
- B.S. Hospitality Management
- B.A. Music
 - *Vocal Performance Concentration*
 - *Music Production Concentration*
 - *Church Music Concentration*

CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS*

- Certificate in Nonprofit Management
- Certificate in Entrepreneurship
- Certificate in Esports Performance/ Drone Technology
- Certificate in Hospitality

* Bachelor's Degrees = 120 credit hours

* Certificate Programs = 24 credit hours



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Dr. Kevin James
President

In Memoriam



Silas "SiMan" Alexander III
(1964-2022)
Syndicated Radio Host,
Majic 107.5/97.5



Lecester "Bill" Allen
(1944-2024)
Founder
The Allen Entrepreneurial Institute (AEI)
and New Black Wall Street Market



Maceo Brown
(1956-2023)
President & CEO
System 5 Electronics, Inc.



Thomas W. Dortch, Jr.
(1950-2023)
Chairman & CEO
TWD, Inc.



Maynard Eaton
(1949-2023)
TV News Reporter/Journalist
Hampton Univ. and Clark Atlanta Univ.



Mitchell Faulkner
(1957-2022)
Radio DJ
Jazz FM 91.9/WCLK



Dwayne Heard
(1954-2022)
President & Co-Owner
Master Concession ATL-AIR



Lorenzo Jelks
(1939-2023)
TV Reporter, WSB-TV



Dikembe Mutombo
(1966-2024)
Professional Athlete
NBA/Creed Panell



Creed Panell
(1946-2025)
CEO & Founder
Georgia Minority Business Awards



Bishop James Morton
(1946-2023)
Pastor, New Beginning
Full Gospel Baptist Church



William "Bill" Pickard
(1941-2024)
Chairman & Founder
Global Automotive Alliance

In Memoriam



Arthur Queen
(1942-2023)
President & CEO
Ebony Glass and Mirror Company



Rev. R.L. White
(1944-2023)
Pastor
Mt. Ephraim Baptist Church

2025 Men of Influence



"Life takes on meaning when you become motivated, set goals and charge after them in an unstoppable manner."

- Les Brown

Melvin Coleman



Melvin Coleman
President & CEO
Atlanta Black Chambers

Melvin M. Coleman is the President & CEO of the Atlanta Black Chambers. The ABC is an organization of over 1,200 Entrepreneurs committed to the creation and growth of competitive, profitable, and sustainable Black-owned entities.

Melvin served as ABC Executive Director from January 2017 to December 2022; during that time, the Chamber experienced phenomenal growth in both membership and programming. The ABC consists of 12 industry-focused committees and 5 demographic-focused affinity groups. Under his leadership as President, the ABC was awarded the 2024-2025 Chamber of the Year Award by the U.S. Black Chambers.

Melvin is president emeritus of the Georgia Coalition of Black Chambers. The GCBC consists of 10 Black commerce organizations—Atlanta, Savannah, Augusta, Columbus, Macon, Athens, Valdosta, and more. It is the first Black statewide organization of its kind in Georgia.

He is a 2023 President's Volunteer Service Award recipient. He received the ABC's Transformative Leadership Award in 2021 for his commitment to excellence in building the Atlanta Black Chambers. He was also the recipient of the Atlanta Association of Insurance Professionals LINC (link) Award in 2019 for his service and commitment to the Atlanta entrepreneur community.

Melvin is also the founder and chief portfolio strategist of EWM Group, a registered investment advisory firm based in the Atlanta area. He's been a registered representative in Georgia for over 20 years.

He spent 15 years with UPS. His first position, while just a college freshman, was a package sorter, and his last position was senior account executive in the business development department 15 years later.

Melvin is originally from Savannah, Ga. He is a US Navy veteran and a Savannah State University alumnus. His mission is to increase Black ownership and control of successful, significant business enterprises.

Dorian DeBarr



Dorian DeBarr
President
Decide DeKalb
Development Authority

Dorian DeBarr is a native son of DeKalb County and a champion for inclusive economic growth. Since assuming the role of President of Decide DeKalb Development Authority in 2021, DeBarr has led with a focus on strategic investments, job creation, and equitable redevelopment. Under his leadership, Decide DeKalb has facilitated more than \$2.4 billion in investments and supported the creation and retention of over 11,000 jobs since 2020.

DeBarr has been instrumental in securing major economic development wins for DeKalb County, including projects with Sugar Bowl Bakery, TriNet, PepsiCo, and the Home Depot. In 2024, he announced the Southwest DeKalb Tax Allocation District (TAD) to catalyze private redevelopment along the Candler Road corridor and surrounding communities. That same year, the Market Square TAD was established in the North DeKalb Mall community, paving the way for EDENS' redevelopment of Lulah Hills. This new 73-acre, mixed-use project will feature 320,000 square feet of retail and restaurant space, 1,700 multifamily units, 100 townhomes, a 150-key hotel, and a PATH Foundation trail connection to Emory University.

In addition to his work at Decide DeKalb, DeBarr is an active civic leader. He serves on the Urban Land Institute (ULI) Atlanta Advisory Board and participated in the Atlanta Regional Commission's LINK trip to study innovative solutions to urban challenges. In 2024, he was invited to join the Rotary Club of Decatur and was elected Board Chair of Leadership DeKalb.

DeBarr's leadership and impact have been widely recognized. He has been named to Georgia Trend Magazine's 500 Most Influential Georgians multiple times, most recently in 2025, and was honored as a 2025 Most Notable Georgian. In 2025, he was recognized as a Titan 100 honoree, celebrating the top business leaders in Georgia. Looking ahead, DeBarr is a proud member of the 2026 Leadership Atlanta class, continuing his commitment to regional collaboration and leadership excellence.

DeBarr remains dedicated to advancing economic opportunities, fostering strategic partnerships, and ensuring that DeKalb County remains a vibrant and competitive place to live, work, and do business.

Corey Ferguson



Corey Ferguson
VP & Principal
T. Dallas Smith & Company

Corey Ferguson's journey reflects the power of principled upbringing, discipline, and personal determination. Born and raised in Montgomery, Alabama, Corey grew up grounded in faith, resilience, and responsibility—values that continue to define his life. A graduate of the University of Alabama, he excelled both as a student and a football scholar-athlete, while also becoming a proud member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. These formative years sharpened his leadership, competitive drive, and teamwork—qualities central to his career in commercial real estate.

Corey is recognized as both a respected entrepreneur and community leader. Known for being driven, analytical, compassionate, and charismatic, he serves his clients with dedication while making a meaningful impact on his community. Alongside his wife Leslie and their three children, Corey embodies the principles and commitment that have guided his professional path.

His career blends intellectual rigor with practical mastery of the commercial real estate industry. Starting at Colliers International as a Property and Asset Manager, Corey oversaw more than one million square feet of premier office and retail space. His leadership extended beyond daily operations—aligning real estate portfolios with clients' long-term strategic goals.

At Sugar Oak Holdings, a commercial real estate investment firm in Herndon, Virginia, Corey managed senior leasing and property operations for a rapidly expanding Atlanta office portfolio of nearly 200,000 square feet. His ability to navigate complex markets and lead cross-functional teams cemented his reputation for delivering results in diverse environments.

Corey's versatility was further demonstrated as a corporate real estate specialist for Kimberly-Clark Corporation. There, he managed transactions across the U.S. and internationally, refining his skills in global market strategy and execution. These experiences laid the foundation for his current role as Vice President and Principal at T. Dallas Smith and Company. In this capacity, Corey helps corporate clients identify, analyze, and secure real estate solutions tailored to their organizational objectives, while also mentoring his team to achieve their full professional potential.

His industry leadership extends beyond his firm. Corey serves on the Board of Directors of the Atlanta Commercial Board of REALTORS®, where he has earned accolades including the President's Award, Realtor of the Year, and the Alvin B. Cates Award. He is also a member of the Million Dollar Club, recognized as a top producer in his field.

Committed to service, Corey lends his expertise to organizations such as The Dave Krache Foundation, the Empire Board of Realtists, The Ron Clark Academy, the Center for Family Resources, and the Technical College System of Georgia Board of Directors.

Corey Ferguson's story is one of consistent excellence—marked by curiosity, discipline, and visionary leadership. His ability to merge business acumen with community commitment has made him a trusted advisor, a respected leader, and a source of inspiration for peers and future generations alike.

Julius Hollis



Julius Hollis
Chief Executive Officer
J.H. Hollis & Company, LLC

Julius H. Hollis stands as one of Atlanta's most accomplished business leaders and civic champions, with a remarkable career spanning over four decades of entrepreneurship, financial leadership, and community service. A native of Atlanta and graduate of Morehouse College, Hollis has built an extensive career as a banker, entrepreneur, and financial advisor to a diverse array of multinational clients.

Business Excellence and Innovation

As Chief Executive Officer of his flagship company, J.H. Hollis & Company, LLC, an Atlanta-based financial advisory and investment firm, Hollis has emerged as a pivotal strategic deal facilitator for transaction-related business opportunities both in the United States and abroad. Over four decades, Hollis & Company's clients have included among others: AECOM; AGL Resources, Inc; AT&T, Inc; The Bechtel Group; Cabot LNG; The Cheesecake Factory Restaurants, Inc; CENTEGIX; The Georgia Department of Industry and Trade; Georgia-Pacific Chemicals; JP Morgan Chase; Lennar Corporation; Northrop Grumman; Pope and Land Enterprises; Pratt Whitney; Republic Properties; Slater Infrastructure Group, LLC; The Southern Company; UPS World; URS; U.S. Filter, Inc; Veolia Water N.A., as well as public sector clients such as the Governments of Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad & Tobago and South Africa.

Hollis was the founder and former Chairman of the Board of Directors for Nevis Securities, LLC, a licensed investment banking company co-owned in a partnership with JPMorgan Chase. From 2003 through 2006, Nevis Securities served as Senior Manager and/or Co-Manager on transaction-related assignments over \$8 billion. His business acumen also extends to infrastructure development, where he played pivotal roles in developing the strategy for The Southern Company to acquire the integrated electric utilities in in Jamaica and Trinidad & Tobago jointly valued at \$500 million, as well as crafting the strategies for AECOM's in securing a \$ 1 billion FEMA disaster recovery project in the U.S. Virgin Islands, including the \$100 million Atlanta Street Car Project; Serving as Co-Managing Partner of Synergy Beverage Solutions, LLC, a state of the art technologically advanced energy renewable company that manufactures industrial grade ethanol in Cordell Georgia.

Pioneering Aviation Legacy

Julius Hollis co-founded Air Atlanta, Inc., a \$100 million nationally based commercial airline carrier with his brother Michael, the nation's first and only Black owned commercial airline, which operated in the 1980s from Hartsfield-Jackson International Airport. Serving as Vice-President of Air Atlanta from 1981 to 1984, Julius played a crucial role in the groundbreaking venture that challenged industry norms and created opportunities for African Americans in aviation. The airline's luxury service and ambitious scope made it a symbol of Black entrepreneurship during the 1980s.

Civic Leadership and Community Impact

Hollis has demonstrated an unwavering commitment to Atlanta's civic development and community empowerment. He founded and served as Chairman of the Alliance for Digital Equality from 2007-2013, a \$20 million nationally based 501(c) 4 non-profit consumer digital advocacy organization focused on facilitating equal access to technology in underserved communities. Through this organization, Hollis advocated for policies ensuring broadband accessibility and affordability for minority and low-income communities.

His civic engagement has also included serving on the board of directors of Booker T. Washington High School Legacy Foundation, Inc, NCBA Housing, Inc., as a member of the Business Advisory Council of the African American Mayors Association, and on the board of directors of Jamaica Public Service Company, Ltd. His early career included service as Constituent Outreach Representative for Congressman Andrew J. Young and as Assistant Vice-President at the Export-Import Bank of the United States during the Carter Administration.

Lasting Impact

Hollis continues to inspire future generations. His leadership philosophy emphasizes creating opportunities for others through business innovation and community engagement. As co-author of "In the Arena-The High-Flying Life of Air Atlanta Founder Michael R. Hollis," he has preserved the legacy of Black entrepreneurship for future generations."

Julius Hollis exemplifies the transformative power of combining business excellence with unwavering civic commitment, leaving an indelible mark on Atlanta's economic and social landscape.

DeVon E. Hudson



DeVon E. Hudson
President and CEO
DeVon E. Hudson
Insurance Agency

DeVon E. Hudson is a seasoned entrepreneur and the President and CEO of DeVon E. Hudson Insurance Agency, an affiliate of State Farm Insurance, as well as the principal owner of The Hudson Holding Company, a prominent real estate construction and management firm. With a strong vision, unwavering faith, and remarkable resilience, Hudson has successfully established and led two diverse enterprises.

Since opening his State Farm Insurance Agency in 1984, Hudson has built it into a top-performing independent agency, generating over \$12 million in annual gross revenues. He emphasizes the financial services aspect of insurance, focusing on educating clients about building generational wealth, which has fostered a loyal customer base.

In 1996, Hudson founded The Hudson Holding Company to fill a critical gap in the availability of quality office space in South DeKalb County. He collaborated with his father to develop Trinity Office Park, a premium office complex in South DeKalb County. Currently, he is spearheading the development of a mixed-use project known as The Water Towers.

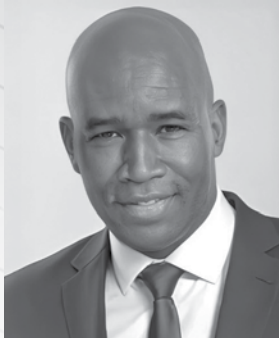
Dedicated to empowering the next generation of entrepreneurs, Hudson actively mentors young business leaders. He has partnered with a protégé to establish So Fresh & So Clean, a car wash, and Drummer Imports, an automotive service and repair center. Additionally, he supported a young entrepreneur in launching The Java Delight Cafe, a coffee and sandwich shop. Hudson is looking forward to the opening of his Entrepreneur Leadership Center later this year.

Hudson is deeply involved in his community, serving on the board of the Atlanta Area Council for the Boy Scouts of America, and as a member of the 100 Black Men of Atlanta, Inc., the South DeKalb Business Association, and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. His contributions have earned him recognition, including the Outstanding Minority Business Award from the Georgia Association of Minority Entrepreneurs and the Outstanding Young People of Atlanta award. He is also a graduate of the Leadership DeKalb program.

Hudson's entrepreneurial achievements stem from a strong work ethic, perseverance, and a profound belief in divine guidance. By applying fundamental business principles across the insurance and commercial real estate sectors, he consistently delivers superior products and exceptional customer service. Leadership Engagement Highlights

- Leadership DeKalb Graduate (1993)
- Ambassador Club: Member (2021-2024)
- State Farm Insurance Honor Agent: Recognized Silver Honor for 10 years
- Boy Scouts of America: Soapstone Ridge District Chairman
- 100 Black Men of Atlanta: Active Member
- Millionaire Club Qualifier: Achieved
- Fire Honor Agent: Designation Holder
- Outstanding Young People of Atlanta: Honoree
- Outstanding Minority Business Award: Georgia Association of Minority Entrepreneurs Recipient
- Outstanding Christian Service Award: Honoree
- Select Agent: Designation Holder (2007- 2012)
- ROOTS Adoption Agency: Board Member

Orrin Hudson



Orrin Hudson
Founder and
Chief Educational Officer
Be Someone, Inc.

Orrin “Checkmate” Hudson: Founder, Educator, and Strategic Thinking Advocate

Orrin “Checkmate” Hudson is a nationally recognized chess champion, youth mentor, award-winning educator, Air Force veteran, and former Alabama State Trooper who has dedicated his life to teaching young people how to make better decisions—one strategic chess move at a time. As the founder and Chief Educational Officer of Be Someone, Inc., a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization based in Stone Mountain, Georgia, Hudson has empowered over 100,000 students through his unique, chess-based leadership and life-skills training. His mission is to teach one million students how to think, plan, and succeed in life.

Born in Birmingham, Alabama, Hudson turned his life around after a troubled youth, thanks to a high school teacher who introduced him to the game of chess. That single act of mentorship ignited a lifelong commitment to helping others. In 2000, after hearing about a tragic robbery that left five people dead regarding \$2,400, Hudson founded Be Someone to provide young people with a better way—a smarter way—to resolve conflict and make life-affirming choices.

Hudson’s signature message is clear and urgent: “Think it out, don’t shoot it out.” Using a giant chessboard and hands-on workshops, he teaches his students the value of patience, focus, discipline, and strategy. His guiding philosophy—“Take Time to Think Things Through” (the 6 T’s)—forms the core of his leadership training. He challenges his students to rise above peer pressure and negativity by making better moves on the board and in life.

Hudson often says, “I don’t teach chess because it’s easy—I teach it because it’s hard.” Chess mirrors life: every move has consequences, and each choice matters. Through chess, Hudson teaches students how to be proactive thinkers, responsible leaders, and compassionate decision-makers.

His groundbreaking work has earned him the FBI’s Distinguished Community Leader Award, the George H.W. Bush Points of Light Award, and the TBS Education Award from Turner Broadcasting. He’s been featured by CNN, Good Morning America, FOX & Friends, CBS National, USA Today, People Magazine, and many others for his tireless dedication to stopping violence and building brighter futures.

Hudson is also the author of *One Move at a Time: How to Win at Chess and Life*, a motivational book that shares his story and teaches readers how to apply chess principles to achieve success. He has brought his message to schools, corporations, community centers, and churches nationwide, partnering with groups like Steve Harvey’s Mentoring Program, Georgia Power, and the U.S. Department of Education.

With unmatched energy and relentless purpose, Orrin “Checkmate” Hudson is changing the culture by changing how young people think. He is a soldier for peace, a strategist for hope, and a mentor determined to make every move count.

Forrest Johnson



Forrest Johnson
Attorney at Law
Forest B. Johnson &
Associates

From the streets of Jacksonville, Florida, to the front lines of justice, Attorney Forrest Bernard Johnson's life is proof that grit, faith, and purpose can turn humble beginnings into a legendary legacy. Born and raised in Jacksonville, Johnson learned early the value of hard work, perseverance, and giving back.

After earning his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Florida in 1975, he went on to receive his Juris Doctor from Tulane University Law School in 1978. He launched his legal career as an Assistant State Attorney in Jacksonville, honing his courtroom skills and developing a passion for advocating on behalf of those who needed a voice. By 1982, Johnson stepped into private practice, and in 1984, he founded Forrest B. Johnson & Associates in Jacksonville, focusing on personal injury, medical malpractice, wrongful death, and product liability cases.

In 1987, Johnson was admitted to the Georgia Bar, and the following year, he opened an Atlanta office. Over more than four decades, he has built one of the Southeast's most respected personal injury law firms, recovering more than \$50 million in verdicts and settlements for injury victims and their families. Known for his unique blend of sharp legal skill and compelling storytelling, Johnson has a way of making complex legal issues clear and relatable for juries, earning him a reputation as a formidable courtroom advocate.

Johnson's philosophy extends far beyond winning cases. Guided by his motto, "Lift as you climb," he has dedicated his life to community service and empowering the next generation. He has personally invested over \$1 million into the community through scholarships, providing thousands of bookbags to students, supporting boards of education, funding meals for single mothers, delivering holiday dinners, and hosting impactful community events. His belief is simple: true success is not measured by personal gains alone but by the number of lives you elevate along the way.

This lifelong commitment to service and justice has earned Johnson numerous accolades, including the Gate City Bar Association's A.T. Walden Outstanding Lawyer Award, the National Bar Association's Presidential Award, and induction into the Gate City Bar Hall of Fame. In a crowning moment of recognition, under the Biden Administration, he received the Presidential Lifetime Achievement Award—one of the nation's highest honors—celebrating individuals who have dedicated more than 4,000 hours of volunteer service to their communities.

Even after decades of success, Johnson's drive has not slowed. He continues to lead Forrest B. Johnson & Associates with the same energy and passion that fueled his early days, mentoring young attorneys, fighting for justice, and giving back to the communities he serves.

From humble beginnings to national acclaim, Attorney Forrest B. Johnson stands as living proof that with determination, service, and integrity, you can start with nothing and end with everything—so long as you work for it, fight for it, and never forget to give back.

Reginald B. McKnight



Reginald B. McKnight
Global Head of Community
Engagement and Workforce
Development
Google

Reginald McKnight is an award-winning business and thought leader with an extensive corporate, legal, policy, and public affairs background advising some of the world's largest companies – Google, Facebook, BP – on complex business, public engagement, and reputational issues.

Reggie is currently Global Head of Community Engagement & Workforce Development for Google, where his team leads the company's global economic development, job creation, and community engagement strategies. Their work supports Google's billions of dollars of investments in global data center communities, ensuring that they are poised for the new AI era.

Reggie's mentor, Ambassador Andrew J. Young – a key architect of the Civil Rights Movement, former Mayor of Atlanta and chief advisor to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. – has hailed him as the next generation of engaged, impactful global leaders.

"Dr. King told many of us, his trusted and loyal peers, that those who lived past the age of 40 would have a special duty: to carry on the work of giving voice to the voiceless," Young says. "Through his vision and dynamic leadership, Reggie is doing just that. He is helping carry that torch forward by creating jobs and investing in communities and, in turn, bringing real impact to millions of people."

Prior to joining Google, Reggie served as Facebook's Head of U.S. Economic and Community Development. Before his career in tech, Reggie was a lawyer and key strategist for BP's response to the 2010 Deepwater Horizon Gulf Oil Spill.

Reggie began his career as a litigator at WilmerHale in Washington, D.C. and served as a federal law clerk for the Hon. Karen J. Williams on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit.

Reggie's global impact has been recognized through various awards, including the recent Humanitarian of the Year Award from the Pump Foundation. He was also profiled in 2025 by The Atlantan Magazine and received the 2024 Atlanta Business Chronicle Corporate Citizen of the Year Award. In 2023, he accepted the Dr. Martin Luther King International Justice & Peace Award on behalf of Ambassador Young.

Reggie is also an advisory board member for 8VC, a technology and life sciences venture capital firm with more than \$6 billion in committed capital, which was founded by the renowned American entrepreneur, venture capitalist, and philanthropist Joe Lonsdale.

Reggie earned his J.D. from Duke University School of Law in 2004 (which he attended on a full academic scholarship) and graduated cum laude with a B.A. from the University of Notre Dame in 2001, where he was a decorated student-athlete on the men's soccer team and the first African American athlete to be named a Rhodes Scholar finalist.

A native of Greenville, South Carolina, Reggie now lives in Atlanta with his two sons, Reg (9) and Russell (6) – both budding star baseball players.

Ernie Suggs



Ernie Suggs
Sr. Reporter
The Atlanta
Journal-Constitution

Ernie Suggs is a Race and Culture reporter for the *Atlanta Journal-Constitution* (AJC), where he covers race, culture, civil rights, education, and politics. He also curates the paper's Black content and edits the weekly newsletter *Unapologetically ATL*.

Born in Brooklyn and raised in North Carolina, Suggs graduated from Rocky Mount Senior High School in 1985 and earned his B.A. in English Literature from North Carolina Central University (NCCU) in 1990. While at NCCU, he was sports editor and later editor-in-chief of *The Campus Echo*, earning an internship through the National Association of Black Journalists (NABJ) with Gannett Newspapers in New York. He is a member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.

After two years with Gannett, he joined *The Herald-Sun* in Durham, N.C., in 1992, covering higher education and historically Black colleges. In 1996, his Education Writers Association fellowship produced *Fighting to Survive*, a Pulitzer-nominated, award-winning 17-story series on HBCUs – still the most in-depth newspaper account of Black colleges ever written.

In 1997, Suggs joined the *AJC* as one of its lead writers on race and civil rights, covering the Black community, racial profiling, housing, reparations, and prominent leaders such as Coretta Scott King, Andrew Young, and Joseph Lowery.

Active in NABJ since his student days, Suggs served as national vice president from 2005 to 2009. In 2008, he was selected as a Nieman Fellow at Harvard University, studying African and African American Studies under renowned scholars including Henry Louis Gates and Evelyn Higginbotham. He later joined the Nieman Foundation's board and advisory committees.

His honors include the Pioneer Black Journalist Award from NABJ (2013) and numerous state and national journalism awards. In 2021, NCCU's English Department established an endowed scholarship in his name to support journalism students.

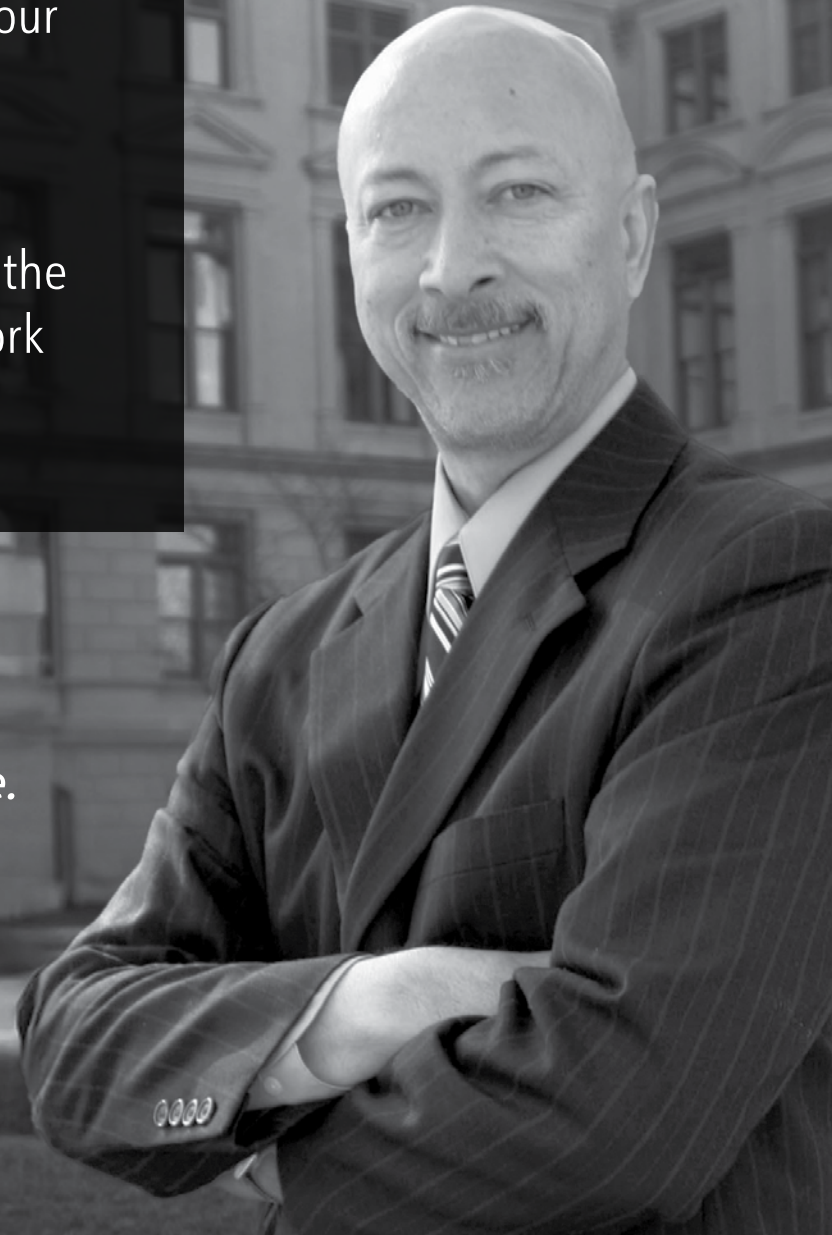
Suggs is the author of *The Many Lives of Andrew Young* (2022), chronicling the life of the former Atlanta mayor, civil rights leader, and U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations. In 2023, he wrote and produced *The South Got Something to Say*, the Emmy-nominated AJC documentary on Southern hip-hop.

The Law Offices of Gordon L. Joyner proudly salutes the exceptional 2025 Men of Influence Honorees whose dedication, innovation, and unwavering commitment to excellence have made a profound impact on business and our community.

You are trailblazers, mentors, and visionaries whose influence inspires the next generation to dream bigger, work harder, and lead with purpose.

*We celebrate your success.
We honor your service.
We thank you for your influence.*

Gordon L. Joyner, Esq.



FBJ



FORREST B. JOHNSON
&
ASSOCIATES

CAR WRECK?
GET A CHECK!



[2024]

Men of Influence



The Hon. Byron D. Amos
Councilman, District 3
Atlanta City Council



Eddy Benoit, Jr.
CEO & Founder
The Benoit Group, LLC



The Hon. Michael Bond
Councilmember
Atlanta City Council



Wendell Brown, Sr.
Project Construction Mgr.
DeKalb County Watershed
Management



Jamal-Harrison Bryant
Senior Pastor
New Birth
Missionary Baptist Church



Jason J. Carter
Founder
One MusicFest



Jason Halliburton
VP, Senior Portfolio Advisor
The Halliburton Group,
Merrill Lynch



Rev. Shanan E. Jones
President
Concerned Black Clergy



Sheriff Patrick Labat
Sheriff
Fulton County



Frank Martin
Chief Regional Officer, SE
& *Pres. of Milhouse Forestry*
Milhouse Engineering and
Construction



Dr. Michael Owens
Mayor
City of Mableton



Jason Pettway
AVP of
Workplace Experience
Norfolk Southern



Marshall Taggart
Associate VP of
Government Affairs
Clark Atlanta University

[2023]

Men of Influence



James "Jay" Bailey
President & CEO
Russell Innovation Center
for Entrepreneurs (RICE)



Bruce T. Bell
Director
City of Atlanta Mayor's Office
of Contract Compliance



Frank Brown, Esq.
Chief Executive Officer
Communities In Schools
of Atlanta



W. Imara Canady
National Director
AIDS Healthcare Foundation
& Chair, BLACC



Dr. Kevin James
President
Morris Brown College



Rushion McDonald
CEO & Owner
3815 Media, Inc.



Alfred McRae
President
Bank of America, Atlanta



Wilbur C. Milhouse III
Chairman & CEO
Milhouse Engineering and
Construction, Inc.



Michael H. Ross
President & CEO
MHR International, Inc.



Lawrence N. Sharp, Jr.
Broker & Owner
Lawrence Sharp Realtors,
LLC



O. Nick Slappy
*Vice President of Safety &
Resource Management*
Southern Company Gas



Dr. David A. Thomas
President
Morehouse College

[2022]

Men of Influence



Martin Clarke
Attorney
City of Atlanta



Howard Franklin
President & CEO
Ohio River South



Dr. George French, Jr.
President
Clark Atlanta University



Michael German
CEO
Green Meadows-
Broadview America, LLC



Eric Pinckney
Principal
The Integral Group, LLC



Anthony Saul
EVP & CFO
Grady Health System



Michael Smith
Partner
Ernst & Young, LLP



L. Chris Stewart
Managing Partner & CEO
Stewart Miller Simmons
Trial Attorneys

[2021]

Men of Influence



Ernest Ellis
President & CEO
FS 360, LLC



John Funny
President & CEO
The Grice Consulting Group



Dr. Tavarez Holston
President
Georgia Piedmont
Technical College



Johnny Howze
Vice President, Supply
Chain Operations
Southern Company Gas



Joseph Malbrough
Owner
UPS Store - Smyrna, GA



Keith Millner
COO
Atlanta Volunteer
Lawyers Foundation



Rep. Billy Mitchell
Chair, Georgia House
Democratic Caucus
President, National Black Caucus of State Legislators



Rev. Dr. Kevin Murriel
Senior Pastor
Cascade United
Methodist Church



Afemo Omilami
COO
Hosea Feed the Hungry



Ralph Phillips
Principal, EVP
Synergy Development
Partners, LLC



Napoleon Rutledge, Jr.
SVP &
Chief Accounting Officer
Genuine Parts Company



Dr. Charles West
Senior Consultant
The DeBruce Foundation

[2020]

Men of Influence



REV. KENNETH L. ALEXANDER
Pastor
Antioch Baptist Church North



MAURICE "MOE" BAKER
Manager, Community Relation
Georgia Natural Gas



LEONTE BENTON
Principal, SVP
T. Dallas Smith & Company



RAPHAEL W. BOSTIC
President & CEO
Federal Reserve Bank of Atlanta



LEROY CHAPMAN JR.
Deputy Managing Editor
The Atlanta Journal-Constitution



ROOSEVELT GILES
Chairman of the Board
Atlanta Life Financial Group



IRA JACKSON
President & CEO
Perfect Image Printing Company



KWAME JOHNSON
President & CEO
Big Brothers and Sisters Metro Atlanta



ANTHONY MCCAIN
Vice President Resource Management
Atlanta Gas Light Company



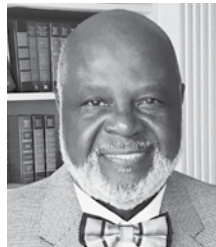
CLYDE EDWARD MIZE, JR., ESQ
Partner and Chair of Diversity
and Inclusion
Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP



DR. RASHAD RICHEY
Host Real Talk with Rashad Richey
News and Talk 1380 WAOK AM



LAWRENCE L. SANDERS JR., MD
Senior Vice President, Utilization
and Care Mgmt.
Grady Health System



ROMEO P. STOCKETT, PHD, MPA
Founder
The Consortium for Global Informatics



THE HONORABLE VINCE WILLIAMS
Mayor
Union City



REV. JAMES "MAJOR" WOODALL
State President
Georgia NAACP

[2019]

Men of Influence



MARTIN DAVIS
Executive Vice President & Chief
Information Officer
Southern Company



HOWARD W. GRANT, PH.D.
VP of Community, Governmental/
External Affairs
Atlanta Housing



DAVID LEE
Executive VP, External Affairs &
Executive Director
Atlanta Hawks Foundation



FARRAND LOGAN
First Senior Vice President/Chief
Lending Officer
Citizens Trust Bank



MARCUS MARGERUM
Vice President, Government and
Community Affairs
Atlanta Convention & Visitors
Bureau



DEMARIO PRESSLEY
Founder & President
Agriculture Logistics of Georgia
(ALG)



FRANKLIN RUCKER
Chief of Capital Programs, Plan-
ning/Innovation
MARTA



DANIEL SHOY, JR.
President & CEO
East Lake Foundation



STEPHEN VAULT
Vice President of Business Devel-
opment/ Strategy
WellStar Health System



JOSHUA WILLIAMS
Chief Operating Officer City of
Atlanta
Office of the Mayor



RYAN WILSON
Co-Founder & CEO
The Gathering Spot

History - *About The Atlanta Business League*

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.

[2018]

Men of Influence



LECESTER "BILL" ALLEN
President and Founder
Allen Entrepreneurial Institute/Camp
Exposure International



DR. MARK BERRY
Vice President, Environmental
and Natural Resources
Georgia Power Company



DR. CARLTON DONALD
Founder & President/CEO
PHIGENIX



EUGENE DUFFY
Senior Managing Director/
Institutional Sales
Mesirow Financial



JASON F. ESTEVES
APS Board Chair
Atlanta Public Schools



TODD GRAY
Dir. Supplier Diversity Materials
Management
Grady Health System



JOSEPH HANDY
President & COO
Georgia Aquarium



CLYDE HIGGS
Vice President & COO
Atlanta BeltLine, Inc.



MAJOR GENERAL (RET.)
RONALD L. JOHNSON
Professor, Industrial and
Systems Engineering
H. Milton Stewart School,
Georgia Institute of Technology



DR. GAVIN SAMMS
Head of Schools
Genesis Innovation Academy



MICHAEL L. SMITH
Senior Deputy General Manager
Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta
International Airport



MICHAEL SULLIVAN
Vice President of Technology
Southern Company Gas

[2017]

Men of Influence



SAMUEL COX
EVP & Chief Financial Officer
Citizens Trust Bank



DEREK GRAYSON
VP/South Region Government
Guaranteed Lending Manager
Fifth Third Bank



JERROLD HILL
VP of Human Resources
Southern Company Gas



JOHN HOLLINS, JR.
President
100 Black Men of DeKalb County



DR. RONALD JOHNSON
President
Clark Atlanta University



THARON JOHNSON
Founder & CEO
Paramount Consulting Group, LLC



DR. JABARI SIMAMA
President
Georgia Piedmont
Technical College



DEXTER WARRIOR
Principal & COO
T. Dallas Smith & Company



MARK WILSON
President & CEO
Chime Solutions

[2016]

Men of Influence



LEE BAKER, CFP
President
AARP of Georgia



STERLING COLEMAN
President & CEO
SJAC Food Groups, LLC



TIMOTHY JEFFERSON
Executive Vice President & Chief
Legal Officer
Grady Health System



BRIAN PAULING, CPA, CGMA,
CCEP, CDP, CFE
President & CEO
100 Black Men of America, Inc.



THE HONORABLE RANDY ROLLE
Consul General, Atlanta Consul
General Office
Bahamas Consulate



BYRON E. SMALL
Photo Journalist
Atlanta Business Chronicle



COURTNEY I. SMITH
V.P., Community Development
Market Manager
PNC Bank



T. DALLAS SMITH
President & CEO
T. Dallas Smith & Company



ATLANTA BUSINESS LEAGUE

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
- Educational training opportunities for business owners and staff
- Access to information clearinghouse

[2015]

Men of Influence



ENNIS ANTOINE
President of the
Atlanta Board
of REALTORS



ARCHIE L. BOUIE
Chief Administrative Officer/Ex-
ecutive Director for the Fairburn
Campus and the
Stone Mountain Extension Center
of Georgia Military College



PEDRO CHERRY
Senior Vice President of Metro
Atlanta Region for Georgia Power



DR. WILLIAM COOPER
Medical Director of Cardiovas-
cular Surgery at WellStar Health
Systems



ALEXANDER B. CUMMINGS
Executive Vice President and Chief
Administrative Officer (CAO) of
The Coca-Cola Company



ALBERT EDWARDS
Founder & Managing Director of
Corporate Environmental Risk
Management, LLC (CERM)



COURTNEY ENGLISH
Chairman of the Atlanta Public
Schools (APS) Board of Education.



JOSEPH ERVES
Senior Director of Operations for
the Metropolitan Atlanta
Rapid Transit Authority (MARTA)



HAROLD FRANKLIN, JR.
Partner at King & Spalding/
108th President of the Atlanta
Bar Association



ERIC HARRISON
Vice President of Sales for the South
Region at PepsiCo



JESSE KILLINGS
Vice President of Operations for
Atlanta Gas Light



MIGUEL SOUTHWELL
Aviation General Manager of
Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta
International Airport



ANTHONY THOMAS
Publisher
People You Need To Know
Magazine



TIRRELL D. WHITLEY
CEO & Principal
LIQUID SOUL



DR. JOSEPH WILLIAMS
Pastor
Salem Baptist Church

[2014]

Men of Influence



MACEO BROWN
President & CEO
System 5 Electronics, Inc.



SAM D. BURSTON
National Director
United Negro College Fund



RICK CAFFEY
*Sr. Vice President and Market
Manager*
CBS Radio Atlanta



**THE HONORABLE
BRAXTON T. COTTON**
Board Member
State Board of Pardons
and Paroles



**THE HONORABLE
ANDRE DICKENS**
*Chair, Community Development
& Human Resources*
Atlanta City Council



FOREST T. HARPER JR.
*President and
Chief Executive Officer*
INROADS, Inc.



ERSKINE HAWKINS
Executive Director
Georgia Black
United Fund, Inc.



**THE HONORABLE
BRUCE HOLMES**
Vice Chairman
Henry County Board
of Commissioners



B. MITCHELL KING
Region Manager
Metro East Region
Georgia Power



**DR. CHRISTOPHER R.
MOSLEY, FACHE, DSL**
Executive Vice President/COO
Grady Health System



HUBERT E. OWENS
Director
The City of Atlanta Mayor's
Office of Contract
Compliance



C. EARL PEEK, CPA
*Founder and Managing
Partner*
Diamond Ventures (SBIC)



DANTES RAMEAU
*Co-Founder and
Executive Director*
Atlanta Music Project



NATHANIEL SMITH
*Founder and Chief Equity
Officer/CEO*
Partnership for
Southern Equity



WILLIAM "BILL" TAGGART
President and CEO
Atlanta Life Financial Group



JOHN L. TURNER
President & CEO
Capitol City Bank & Trust



MELVIN D. WILLIAMS
*Senior Vice President,
Planning and Business
Services*
AGL Resources



DR. ROBERT J. YANCY
Chairman
SCORE, Atlanta



JOSEPH YOUNG
Assistant Conductor
Atlanta Symphony Orchestra
(ASO)

Men of Influence

[2013]



ROCK ANDERSON, JR.
Vice President of People Strategies
Manheim



DR. MICHAEL W. BROOKS, MBA
President & CEO
West End Medical Centers, Inc.



RODNEY BULLARD
Executive Director
Chick-fil-A Foundation



ERROLL B. DAVIS, JR.
Superintendent
Atlanta Public Schools



DR. LEON L. HALEY
Deputy Chief of Staff &
Deputy Sr. VP of Medical Affairs
Grady Health System



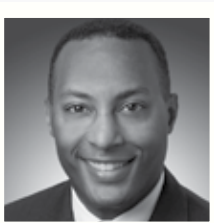
THE HONORABLE KWANZA HALL
President Pro Tempore
Atlanta Region
Atlanta City Council



EDWARD HARTLEY
President
Hartley & Company, LLC



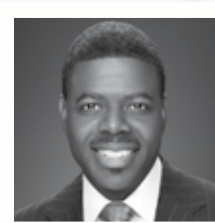
REGINALD F. HICKS
Development Director
WCLK 91.9FM



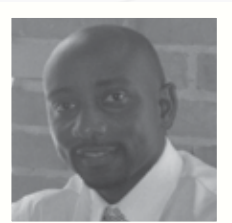
MICHAEL JOHNSON
Former Judge
Fulton County Superior Court



HENRY KELLY
Project Executive
Georgia Power Company



CHESLEY MCNEIL
Meteorologist
WXIA 11Alive



ANDERSON MOORE
VP Operations Eastern Region
Duncan Solutions, Inc.



GREGORY MOORE
Commissioner
Southern Intercollegiate Athletic Conference (SIAC)



NICK F. NELSON
Board Chair
Urban League of Greater Atlanta



KEITH T. PARKER, AICP
General Manager/CEO
MARTA



DR. C. CLAYTON POWELL
Executive Director
Development Authority of Fulton County



RODNEY K. STRONG
Chairman
Griffin & Strong, P.C.



CHIEF GEORGE TURNER
Chief of Police
Atlanta Police Department

Men of Influence

[2013]



PERCY D. VAUGHN
*Southern Region
Director*
Kia Motors of America



CLINT WALKER
Sr. Managing Member
Team 7 Consulting,
LLC



MATTHEW WARE
President
100 Black Men of DeKalb



**ROBERT
WOOLRIDGE**
General Manager
Evergreen Marriott
Conference Resort

[2012]



REV. FRANK BROWN
President
Concerned Black Clergy
of Metropolitan Atlanta,
Inc.



CASSIUS BUTTS
Regional Administrator
Region IV
U. S. Small Business
Administration (SBA)



DANIEL CALDWELL
President/CEO
1st Choice Credit Union



**ROOSEVELT
COUNCIL, JR.**
*Deputy General
Manager/CFO*
Hartsfield-Jackson
Atlanta International
Airport



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*Vice President,
Operations,*
Atlanta Gas Light &
Chattanooga
Gas AGL Resources



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Senior Vice President of
Metro
Atlanta Region
Georgia Power



JASON FRENCH
*Assistant Coach -
Linebacker/Special Team*
Georgia State University



KENNETH GREEN
*Producer, Creative
Director,
Director of Cultural
Initiatives*
Spelman College



ROBERT A. HOLMES
*Former State
Representative*
53rd District



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Atlanta Regional
Commission



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Hudson Strategic Group



DWIGHT KELLY
President
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Metro
Inc.

[2012]



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LEGGETT**
*Director of Interventional
Cardiology
Cardiovascular Institute
of Georgia and East
Georgia Regional
Medical Center*



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MEACHUM**
*Founder & Chairman
Daniel R. Meachum &
Associates, LLC*



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*Regional President
PNC Bank, Greater
Georgia*



**DEMARCO
MORGAN**
*Anchor
11Alive*



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MUTOMBO**
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Dikembe Mutombo
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*President/Chairman of
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100 Black Men of South
Metro*



**DR. MICHAEL
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National Black Arts
Festival*



KOFI SMITH
*Executive Director
Atlanta Airlines
Terminal Corporation*



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*President & Chief
Architect
Sciberus, Inc.*



MACK WILBOURN
*Owner & President
Mack II, Inc.*



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*Senior Advisor, Sales &
Marketing
Atlanta Braves*

[2011]



NEIL BARCLAY
*President and CEO
National Black Arts
Festival*



CECIL BERNARD
*Artist
Cecil Bernard
Enterprises*



ROGER BOBB
*President
Bobbcat Films*



GEORGE BROWN
*Sr. Director of Food &
Beverage
Hyatt Regency Atlanta*



JOHN HOPE BRYANT
*CEO and Founder
Operation HOPE*



RUDOLPH H. CARN
*Founder and CEO
National AIDS
Education &
Services for Minorities,
Inc.*

Men of Influence

[2011]



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Chief Operating Officer
Grady Health System



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Senior Vice President
100 Black Men of America, Inc.



NILES HARRIS
General Manager
Sheraton Atlanta Hotel



JAMES "MAC" HUNTER
Senior Partner
Morris Manning & Martin, LLP



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Founder/President/CEO
Confidential Security Agency, Inc.



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Presiding Officer
Board of Commissioners for DeKalb County



JOHN KELLEY
Chairman
DeKalb Chamber



ALONZO L. LORENS
Chairman
Ron Clark Academy



CURTIS J. MARTIN II
President
Gate City Bar Association



MITCHELL A. MARTIN
Owner/Partner
Martin, Harps, Syphoe & Company



MARK MASSEY
Clerk to the Commission
Fulton County Government



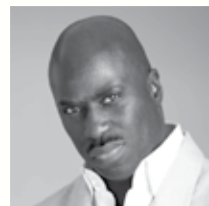
HAROLD MITCHELL, SR.
Chairman
Atlanta Technical College Foundation



ARTHUR QUEEN
President
National Association of Minority Contractors



LONNIE SABOOR
Chairman of the Board
Southwest Atlanta Youth Business Organization



HANK STEWART
Founder and President
The Stewart Foundation



LEONARD WALKER
Atlanta Business Banking Division Manager
Wells Fargo & Company



AARON WATSON
Atlanta City Council Chair
Zoning Committee City of Atlanta



GREG WILSON
Georgia Area Manager
CH2M Hill

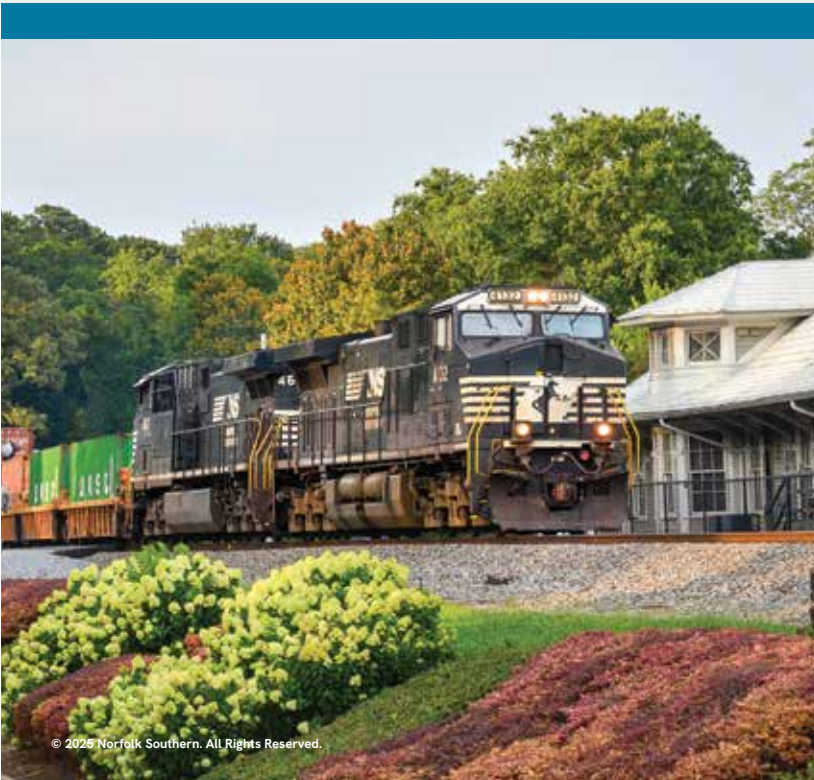


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ATLANTA BUSINESS LEAGUE



[2010]



**HERALD
ALEXANDER**
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Overground RR



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President & CEO
Georgia Power
Foundation



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Banking*
SunTrust Bank



DENNIS BOYDEN
*Regional Director,
External Affairs*
AT&T



COLLIE BURNETT
President & CEO
Atlanta Interfaith
Broadcasters



EVERETT BUTLER
General Manager
One Ninety One Club



WILLIE CLEMONS
*Associate VP of
Development &
External Affairs*
Morehouse School of
Medicine



**THE HONORABLE
ALFORD DEMPSEY**
Judge
Superior Court of Fulton
County



DAVID HANKERSON
County Manager
Cobb County Board of
Commissioners



**WILLIAM
HAWTHORNE**
*VP Chief Diversity
Officer/Legal Affairs*
Macy's, Inc.



JOHN JACKSON
President & CEO
Bank of Atlanta



JOSEPH A. JACKSON, JR.
Director of Diversity
Greater Atlanta Economic
Alliance



**THEODORE
JACKSON**
Sheriff
Fulton County



JEFF JOHNSON
Executive Director
Department of
Community Interest
Peachtree TV



**THE HONORABLE
CEASAR MITCHELL**
President
Atlanta City Council



**THE HONORABLE
KASIM REED**
Mayor
City of Atlanta



**CHARLES
ROBINSON, JR.**
President & CEO
Sadie G. Mays Health
and
Rehabilitation Center



C.J. STEWART
Founder/CEO
L.E.A.D. Inc.

Men of Influence

[2010]



MICHAEL TYLER
Partner
Kilpatrick Stockton LLP



BRENT L. WILSON
Partner
Elarbee, Thompson,
Sapp & Wilson, LLC

[2009]



JOSEPH BEASLEY
*Southern Regional
Director*
National Rainbow-
PUSH Coalition, Inc.



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Founder & Principal
E.W. Bowen &
Company



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DALE C. BRONNER
Bishop
Word of Faith Family
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The Ark of Salvation



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Senior Vice President
Citizens Trust Bank



**RICHARD H.
DEANE, JR.**
Partner
Jones Day Firm



JEFF DICKERSON
President
Dickerson
Communications



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Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County,
Georgia



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FARRIS, JR.**
President & CEO
The King Center



**ROBERT D.
FLANIGAN**
*Vice President &
Treasurer*
Spelman College



JOHN T. GRANT, JR.
Chief Executive Officer
100 Black Men of
Atlanta, Inc.

[2009]



JOHN B. HAMMOND, III
President & CEO
 100 Black Men of America, Inc.



GREGORY L. HAWKINS
Senior Vice President
 Community Relations
 Arby's Restaurant Group



E. LAMONT HOUSTON
Senior Vice President
 Customer Service & Sales
 Georgia Power Company



KEMUEL KIMBROUGH
Sheriff
 Clayton County



WILLIAM LAMPLEY
President & CPO
 Boys & Girls Club of Metro Atlanta



DAVID T. MANUEL
Former Director of
 Community Relations
 Woodruff Art Center



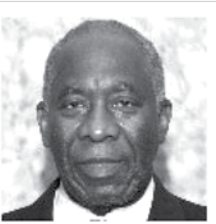
LEONARDO M^CCLARTY
President & CEO
 Dekalb Chamber of Commerce



GARY A. MCGAHA, PH.D.
President
 Atlanta Metropolitan College



PETE MEADOWS
Regional Manager of
 External Affairs
 AT&T



EDWARD MENIFEE
Founder/Director
 Southwest Atlanta Youth Business Organization



TONY R. MORROW
Restaurateur & Executive Chef
 The Pecan



DAN NORMANDIN
General Manager
 Four Seasons Hotel Atlanta



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 Rockdale County Board of Commissioners



DR. STANLEY J. PRITCHETT, SR.
Acting President
 Morris Brown College



BARNEY SIMMS
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RUDOLPH SMITH
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 City of Norcross



CYRIL TURNER
President
 Delta Air Lines Global Services



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Southwest®

Men of Influence

[2008]



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ARRINGTON, SR.**
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Superior Court of
Fulton County



DALLAS AUSTIN
Dallas Austin
Recording Projects



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M.D., F.A.C.S.
President
Midtown Urology



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President & State Rep.
District 47
GA Association of
Black Elected Officials



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President
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University



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THREET BROWN**
President
East Point
Business Association



WILLIAM CLEMENT
President & CEO
Atlanta Life
Financial Group



MILTON CLIPPER
President & COO
Public Broadcasting
Atlanta



MICHAEL COOPER
*Director of Equal
Opportunity*
GA Dept of
Transportation



**DR. ROBERT
CRUMMIE TH.M.**
President
Carver Bible College



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Pastor
Providence Missionary
Baptist Church



**PASTOR DARRELL
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President
Concerned Black
Clergy



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Sheriff
Fulton County



RONALD FRIESON
*Former Interim
President & CEO*
Atlanta Urban League



REGGIE GAY
Radio Personality
The Reggie Gay
Gospel Show



**OSCAR
HARRIS, JR.**
Founder & Chairman
Turner Associates/
OLH International



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HOLMES**
*Senior Vice President of
Metro Atlanta
Region*
Georgia Power Company



MAURICE JENKINS, PH.D.
*Vice President/
Southeast Field
Operation*
United Negro
College Fund

[2008]



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President/Founder
Legacy Ford



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Rights Department



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College Fund



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Processing Services
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III FAIA**
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P.C.



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TURNER**
Chief of Police
Clayton County Police



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Organization of
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Ebenezer Baptist Church

[2008]



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Funeral Home, Inc.



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Butler Street YMCA



**DR. WALTER YOUNG,
DDS**
President
Young International
Development Corporation

[2007]



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President & CEO
Capitol City Bank & Trust
Company



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Attorney General



**GREGORY
BARANCO**
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Baranco Automotive
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President
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Theological Center (ITC)



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Clayton County



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BROWN**
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General Manager
Radio One Atlanta



RYAN CAMERON
Radio Personality



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CLEVELAND**
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*Engineering and
Operations*
AGL Resources



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Judge
US District Court
for the Northern District
of Georgia

Men of Influence

[2007]



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Atlanta International
Airport:
The World's Busiest
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Fulton County



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Chief Operations
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Georgia World
Congress Center



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Finance Services Executive
North Carolina President
Charlotte Market Area
President, Bank of
America



VERNON JONES
Chief Executive Officer
DeKalb County



BRIAN O. JORDAN
Professional Athlete
Philanthropist
Entrepreneur



BILLY KNIGHT
Executive Vice
President/
General Manager
The Atlanta Hawks



KENNY LEON
Artistic Director
True Colors Theatre
Company



EMMANUEL LEWIS
Entertainer

Men of Influence

[2007]



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



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*Councilman
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*Principal
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Construction*



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*Chief of Police
Atlanta Police
Department*



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Lockheed Martin
Aeronautics Company*



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*Chief Executive Officer
Concessions
International, LLC
and H.J. Russell &
Company*



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*United States
Representative
Georgia's 13th
Congressional District*



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*On-Air Personality
Journalist, Producer
Motivational Speaker
Philanthropist*



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*Publisher and CEO
The Atlanta Inquirer
Newspaper Publishers
Assoc. (NPPA), "The
Black Press of America"*



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*Vice President Corporate
Responsibility
Turner
Broadcasting, Inc.*



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STEELE, JR.**
*President & CEO
Southern Christian
Leadership Conference*



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THURMOND**
*Commissioner
Georgia Department of
Labor*



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*Finance Director,
Delta Air Lines, Inc.*



DR. R.L. WHITE, JR.
*Senior Pastor and
Founder
Mount Ephraim Baptist
Church*



**DOMINIQUE
WILKINS**
*Vice President of
Basketball
The Atlanta Hawks*



**JAMES F.
WINESTOCK**
*Senior Vice President US
Operations
UPS*

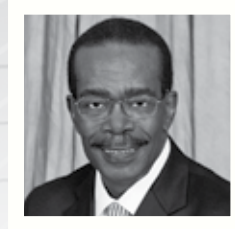
[2007]



**CHRISTOPHER C.
WOMACK**
*Executive
Vice President
External Affairs
Georgia Power
Company*



MARVIN WOODS
*Chef, Author and
Television Host*



JAMES E. YOUNG
*President & CEO
Citizens Trust Bank*

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- **Booker T. Washington**

Men of Influence



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Partner, Assurance Services
Ernst & Young, LLP



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Diversity Programs
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Pat Dixon
Attorney
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Supply Chain
Grady Health System



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and Sustainability*
Norfolk Southern Corporation



Dionne Moore Peasant
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Lawrence Sharp
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Griffin & Strong, P.C.



Dr. Kimberly West
CEO
Magnum Opus Consulting



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Chair, ABL Foundation
Founding Member
Peachtree Providence Partners, LLC



Tashwanda Pinchback Dixon
ABL General Counsel
Partner
Balch & Bingham LLP



Leona Barr-Davenport
President & CEO
Atlanta Business League

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