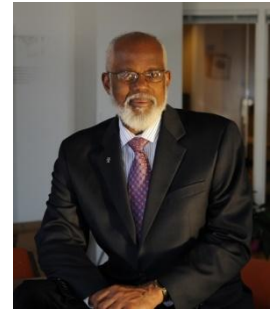


Mr. Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr.

Executive Director, Maryland Legal Aid
Baltimore, Maryland, U.S.A.



Biography

Wilhelm H. Joseph, Jr. received his Bachelor of Science from Mississippi Valley State University in 1969, his Certificate of African Studies from the University of Ghana in 1971, his Juris Doctor from the University of Mississippi School of Law in 1972, and his Master of Public Administration from Harvard University's John F. Kennedy School of Government in 1983.

Mr. Joseph served as the National Director of the Law Students Civil Rights Research Council (headquartered in New York City) from 1972 through 1974 after which he joined North Mississippi Rural Legal Services (NMRLS) in Oxford, MS as a staff attorney and administrator. In 1975, Mr. Joseph was promoted to the position of Executive Director for the organization. In 1982, he enrolled in the graduate program at Harvard before joining Legal Services for New York City (previously called Community Action for Legal Services) where he served as consultant and special assistant to the Executive Director from 1983 until 1990. He was later named Director of the Legal Support Unit, a department that was responsible for citywide litigation, training, legislative advocacy and other support services. In addition to his full-time position, he also served as an adjunct professor of Business Law at the City University of New York, Borough of Manhattan Community College from 1984 until 1996. From 1996 to 1998, Mr. Joseph served as a volunteer for the National Director of the National Conference of Black Lawyers (NCBL), a non-governmental organization that is accredited at the United Nations. For several years, Mr. Joseph served as the representative of the National Conference of Black Lawyers at the United Nations.

In September 1996, Mr. Joseph was recruited for the position of Executive Director of the Legal Aid Bureau (conducting business as Maryland Legal Aid) in Maryland where he directs management of the statewide civil legal services program that comprises 303 staff members, including 174 attorneys who work out of 13 full service offices and a subsidiary organization-The Maryland Center for Legal Assistance-comprising 5 court-based self-help centers and a central coordinating call-in center.

Mr. Joseph has served on the Board of Directors of several organizations including the American Bar Association-Section of Litigation's Legal Services Project; New York Lawyers for the Public Interest; National Conference of Black Lawyers; the Center for Constitutional Rights; National Alliance against Racist and Political Repression; National Legal Aid and Defenders Association; Community Partnership Board of the National Federation of the Blind; the Maryland Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission and

Civil Justice, Inc. He is currently a board member for Pro Bono Resource Center; Baltimore City Historical Society; and was appointed by the Chief Judge of Maryland to the Commission on Public Trust and Confidence in the Judicial System and the Maryland Access to Justice Commission.

Mr. Joseph has traveled extensively around the world to participate in conferences and human rights fact-finding missions in Africa, Asia, Europe, North, Central and South America and the Caribbean.

Mr. Joseph was instrumental in highlighting in Maryland the need for the implementation of a right to counsel in civil cases for people unable to afford private counsel in Maryland and throughout the United States.

An important milestone in his tenure at Maryland Legal Aid was the formal adoption of a human rights framework by the Maryland Legal Aid Board of Directors. He also was among the leaders in the state of Maryland who launched a successful effort to increase government funding for the support of free legal services for low-income people in Maryland. As a consequence of his multi-faceted efforts, Maryland Legal Aid's funding grew from \$9 million in 1996 to over \$27 million this year.

In the aftermath of and as a direct response to significant civil unrest in Baltimore City, where Maryland Legal Aid is headquartered, Maryland Legal Aid launched in 2015 the Community Lawyering Initiative. The Lawyer in the Library Project is a major component of this effort.