

William Arthur Blakey 1943-2010

William Arthur "Buddy" Blakey, a native of Louisville, Ky., made a national impact by devoting his life's work to advocating for educational opportunities on behalf of minority and disadvantaged students. As a prominent Washington D.C. attorney, he led the lobbying efforts that resulted in passage of the Historically Black College and University (HBCU) Act as well as the Thurgood Marshall Legal Education Opportunity Program Act funded by the U.S. Congress. He served as legal counsel to the United Negro College Fund for more than 15 years. In recognition of his advocacy for historically black colleges and universities throughout the nation, Blakey was inducted into the National Black College Hall of Fame in 2001.

Blakey was born in Louisville, Ky., in 1943. Educated in the Louisville Public School System, Buddy graduated from Shawnee High School. He obtained his Bachelor's of Science Degree in Liberal Studies with a major in History from the historically black Knoxville College in Knoxville, Tenn. He received his Juris Doctorate (JD) in 1967 from Howard University School of Law in Washington D.C.

His influential career as an attorney spanned more than four decades, including more than 20 years of federal service with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. While serving at the U.S. Department of Education, Blakey helped to craft the consent decree in the federal lawsuit of *Adams v. Califano*, the landmark higher education desegregation case. He also worked with U.S. Congressmen Romano Mazzoli of Kentucky and Steny Hoyer of Maryland in his legislative advocacy role, particularly in the field of education. He served as the top legislative aide to U.S. Senator Paul Simon of Illinois. He later became a partner in the law firm of Dean, Blakey, Moskowitz and Clohan. In 2005, he began his own practice, William A. Blakey and Associates, PLLC, located in Washington D.C.

Blakey represented the Council for Opportunity in Education and helped to secure millions of dollars in federal funding for programs designed to help students who are low-income, first generation, physically challenged, or veterans enter and complete college. These programs include Upward Bound, Talent Search, and the Ronald McNair Math and Science Program. For over a decade, Blakey also served as chair of the Council on Legal Education Opportunities that helps minority and disadvantaged students prepare for a career in law.

Thousands of students around the country have benefited from his work. Moreover, future generations of college students will benefit from the tremendous legacy Blakey left behind. Many historically black college and university doors remain open due to his tireless advocacy on their behalf. He also found time to serve as a personal mentor to countless youth and young professionals through his activities in his church and community.



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