

NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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LEGAL SERVICES OPENS NEW DATA TROVE AND HALL OF FAME — THE NEW JERSEY EQUAL JUSTICE LIBRARY AND ARCHIVE AND CIRCLE OF HONOR

EDISON — In a move to further chronicle, memorialize and advance “greater justice for all people” and honor New Jerseyans who epitomize that goal, New Jersey Legal Services (LSNJ) has announced the creation of the New Jersey Equal Justice Library and Archive.

The library and archive is designed to be the most inclusive go-to repository of historical and future efforts in the state to achieve equal justice, especially for poor and disadvantaged residents, victims of discrimination and abuse and other vulnerable individuals. In addition, attached to the library and archive will be the Circle of Honor — essentially a new hall of fame for New Jerseyans who have made extraordinary strides in advancing equal justice.

The library and Circle of Honor “will serve important educational, historical and commemorative purposes for the people of New Jersey,” said Melville D. Miller Jr. in unveiling plans for the two institutions.

The library and archive primarily will be a digital operation, though there will also be materials in physical collections, and will contain information assembled by LSNJ over the past five decades. Essentially, it will be the home for continuous updating of efforts to achieve equal justice for all people.

Miller also noted he expects the library and archive will become a key resource for teaching in college and secondary school classes.

“Researchers, advocates and members of the public will find important data in personal collections, materials from major (court) cases, background on key legislative and rulemaking, and more,” the LSNJ president noted.

Initially, the Circle of Honor will have five inductees: former Gov. Thomas H. Kean, former Supreme Court Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz, former Justices James H. Coleman, Merck Chairman and CEO Kenneth C. Frazier, and the late state Sen. Wynona M. Lipman.

Miller said the efforts and lives of the five inductees “stand as enduring paradigms for others to emulate” and that, he added is one of the key purposes — “inspiration” — of the Circle of Honor.

It will contain biographies, chronologies and videos of the individuals and details of the very actions that made them the initial recipients of New Jersey’s newest hall of fame.

Poritz, Frazier and Lipman (posthumously) were inducted during LSNJ award ceremonies June 7 in Hamilton Township. Kean and Coleman were cited during similar ceremonies in 2014.

Legal Services of New Jersey (LSNJ) heads the state’s Legal Services system, a network of five independent non-profit corporations, and is beginning its 50th year of providing free essential legal aid in civil matters to low-income people through offices in all 21 counties. Since its inception, the New Jersey Legal Services System has provided representation in more than 2.4 million cases.

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