

Linda McDonald Carter, Esq.



Linda McDonald Carter served as an Associate Professor of Paralegal Studies, Political Studies, Criminal Justice (Prison Subcultures & Corrections) and Director of the Paralegal Studies Program at Essex County College. She served as a professor there for 30 Years. Her humble beginnings started over decades ago during the tumultuous 1950's, during Republican U.S. Senator, Joseph McCarthy's "Red Scare Period" and the Freedom Movement era that evolved into the Black Power Movement. Linda blossomed early as a sacred active citizen, protesting the Vietnam War at the tender age of 12. She vividly recalls seeing the world through the eyes of the media and TV show about attorney Perry Mason *versus* the realities she witnessed daily growing up in the Scudder Housing Project, located in Newark's Central Ward, before, during and after the 1967 Newark Rebellion and/or Civil Disturbances. P. Carter, vowed then to become an attorney, not necessarily to practice law, nor make money; but, to help make a difference in her community assisting with interpreting the language of law and providing direction on how to navigate and negotiate the U.S. Legal System.

P. Carter's burning interest in the world in which we live intensified as she was introduced to new cultures, religions, and people. Throughout her experiences she gained an appreciation and deep respect for the History of the African Diaspora, Political "isms" and the significance of Civics in sustaining an American desired Democracy. She enrolled in Upward Bound at Bloomfield College, studied Political Science at Rutgers University, participated in the Continuing Legal Educational Opportunity Program at Howard University Law School, and eventually completed her studies in law at Rutgers University - Newark.

Professor Carter has worked since she was 12 years old. However, professional positions included a Resident Manager for the tenants living in the Public Housing Project where she grew up; Section 8 Manager at the Newark Housing Authority (NHA). While in law school, she worked for United States Senator Bill Bradley, before moving to Southern California where she became heavily involved with various grassroots and political initiatives such as registering voters, involved in the voter registration of 800,000 Californians, and learning to manage media.

After living in Southern California, P. Carter returned to New Jersey. Initially, during 1989, she assisted in the implementation of the Governor's Executive Order creating the Motor Voter Law. It was designed to service the public by ensuring that Voter Registration Forms would be available and easy to obtain in various public entities. Later that year after completing that project, she began her current career teaching at Essex County College. Simultaneously, in 1990 she held the position of Assistant Corporation Counsel in East Orange. In 1992, she opened her own law firm. In 1994 she was hired to become Essex County College's first Corporation Counsel, immediately after Governor Christine Whitman provided New Jersey Community Colleges with the opportunity to hire their own In-House Counsel, Her concentration was Preventative Law. Thereafter, Linda joined Lisa Hendricks-Richardson, Rhonda Pope-Stephens, and Vanessa Williams Powell, to form one of the first and largest Black Women Law Firms in New Jersey, **Richardson, Stephens, Powell and Carter, LLC, in** 1996. During this time, she also served as an Assistant Public Defender for the City of Orange.

Her memberships included; but are not limited to:

- Officer & Member of the Association of Black Women Lawyers of New Jersey & Co-Chair of the Social Justice Sub Committee
- Member Garden State Bar Association
- Member of New Jersey State Bar Association Committee on Paralegal
- Formerly member of the American Association of Paralegals (AAfPE) s 'Representative to American Bar Association Standing Committee on Paralegals.
- Member New Jersey State Bar Associations' (NJSBA) Commission on Race and Equity
- New Jersey State Bar Special Committee on Cannabis & Co-Chair of Social Justice & Equity Sub Committee.

Professor Carter's **Community Service activities** are extensive.

She has:

- served on a number of panels or facilitated them addressing a wide range of subjects for various organizations
- facilitated and moderated political debates, forums, and panels
- participated in the co-creation and facilitation of the When Black Women Chat (WBWC). Program Weekly Zoom Series
- an **NJ. Com Op-Ed** titled, *Reimagining Public Safety Means Reinvesting in the Public.*
- Also served as the **guest host** of the Pacifica/WBAIFM Radio program titled, *Law of the Land*
- Serve as an elder to Returning Citizen Support Group (RCSG)

Professor Carter has also been the recipient of numerous awards most recently:

Essex County Bar Association (ECBA) Merit Award

- **Association of Black Women Lawyers, A Tribute to the Harlem Renaissance: Legacy of Revolutionary Thinkers - Education Award**
- **New Jersey Commission on Professionalism in the Law: Professional Lawyer of the Year Award**

Linda is the eldest of 6 brothers, 2 sisters: aunt of 17 nieces and nephews and grandaunt of over 23. She is also the wife of a cool husband, Aaron.