

**MEMORIAL RESOLUTION OF THE  
DAUPHIN COUNTY BAR ASSOCIATION  
UPON THE DEATH OF  
JAMES HENRY ROWLAND, JR. ESQUIRE**

James Rowland died on July 4, 2021. His death at the age of 83 was the final earthly chapter to a remarkable life as a champion and a trailblazer in the legal profession. Born on March 12, 1938, the son of the late James H. Rowland, Sr., Esquire (one of the first African Americans admitted into the Dauphin County Bar) and Clara (Braswell) Rowland in Beckley, West Virginia. With the help and guidance of his father who was a coach and a practicing attorney, Jim excelled both in academics and in sports at Beckley High School which was segregated school at the time he attended. Upon graduation Jim was the first African American athlete from West Virginia to be recruited and to play for The Ohio State University.

Jim went on to excel both academically and on the football field at The Ohio State University. Jim was a member of the varsity football team for 3 years. In 1957, he was a member of the Big Ten Championship team, that went on to win the Rose Bowl and finish number 2 in the national collegiate football rankings. In 1960, he proudly received his bachelor's degree in Accounting. Jim then went on to the prestigious historically black university, Howard University and obtained his Juris Doctorate in 1963 after servicing as the managing editor of the Howard Law Review during his time there.

Jim began his illustrious career with a clerkship at the United States Department of Justice under Attorney General Robert F. Kennedy. This was followed by a role as the first African American Assistant Attorney General in the main Department of Justice. Then upon his move to

Pennsylvania, he became the first African American Chief Counsel of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry. After his great initial success, he and his father were able to break a long-standing Dauphin County Bar tradition of only allowing one African American lawyer to practice in the area at one time. He was admitted to the Dauphin County Bar and entered practice with his father. Jim went on to have a distinguished legal career and continued to break barriers.

Jim was fully committed to the Dauphin County community and served it through his civic involvement. He was the first African American President of the Board of Directors of the Boys and Girls Club of Harrisburg; the First African American Vice Chair of the Board of Directors of the Harrisburg Area Community College. He was also a member of the Rotary Club of Harrisburg, Vice President and Secretary of the Harrisburg YMCA and a member of the Board of Directors of the Harrisburg NAACP.

Jim was a proud African American man and was a member of two historically significant fraternal organizations that invited him to join, Omega Psi Phi, while in college and later Sigma Pi Phi also known as the Boule', the first nationally recognized Greek Letter organization founded in 1904 by highly accomplished African American men, with a vision of academic excellence, economic stability, and social justice. A small sampling of the fraternity's inductees includes Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., General Colin Powell, President Barak Obama and Kenneth Chenault.

Through his work with the Dauphin County Bar Association's Equal Professional Opportunity Committee, Jim was central to the efforts of bringing diversity to the Dauphin County legal community. He was instrumental in advancing the first African American lawyer at a majority white law firm. He was the first lawyer in Dauphin County to successfully challenge a racially restrictive covenant in a residential sales transaction, and while a member of the Board for the NAACP, he spearheaded the development of the first score card to challenge and move forward corporate diversity efforts in Central Pennsylvania. He was also the first African American to Chair a Dauphin County Court Arbitration Panel.

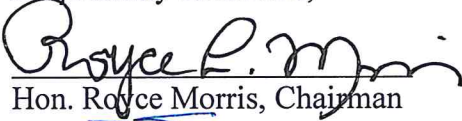
On a personal level, "Big Jim" as he was known to some, loved his family, his wife Linda, his children Kristi and James III, his grandchildren, Chance, Savion and Davante, his great-granddaughter, Alejandra, his brother William and all his relatives and friends. He also loved his adopted hometown of Harrisburg. He was an avid sports fan and found sports both inspirational and motivational. He took great pride in rooting for his "Buckeyes", but he could also be spotted around town during the fall taking in a local high school football game. He became an avid golfer, and he was renowned for talking himself into a round of golf on any public or private golf course he encountered.

Jim's accomplished life was acknowledged when he was honored as one of Harrisburg's Living Legends in 2010 during the City's 150 Year Centennial Celebration. Jim was a champion in life and a trailblazer. We mourn with his family and express to them our deepest sympathy; we share this loss with them.


Therefore, be it resolved that in the passing of James Henry Rowland, Jr., the bar, the Court, and the community lost a friend, a professional colleague, a trailblazer, and a valued citizen. He will be greatly missed, and we tender our sympathy and condolences to his wife and family.

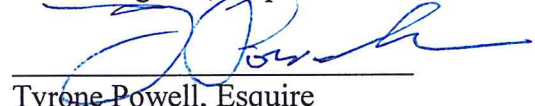
Be it further resolved that we will honor his trailblazing efforts by promoting and fostering diversity in our Bar and in the greater Harrisburg community following the example he gave us and one in which we would do well to emulate. And be it further resolved that copies of this Memorial Resolution be spread upon the records of the Dauphin County Courts and the Dauphin County Bar Association, that the original be filed in the Office of the Prothonotary, and copies transmitted to his widow and his family.

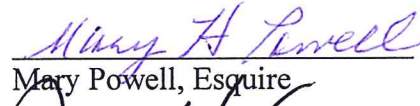
Respectfully submitted,

  
Hon. Royce Morris, Chairman

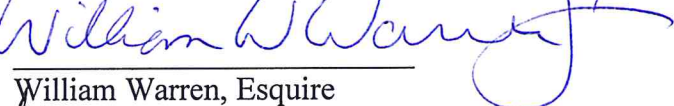
Nathan Waters, Esquire

  
Trent Hargrove, Esquire

  
Tyrone Powell, Esquire

  
Mary Powell, Esquire

  
Dave Lehman, Esquire

  
William Warren, Esquire

  
Dianne Nichols, Esquire