



GALLERY OF DISTINGUISHED CITIZENS INDUCTEE 2006, 2007, 2008 & 2009

J. RICHMOND PEARSON was born in Birmingham and attended Birmingham public schools. He furthered his education at Morehouse College and Howard University School of Law. His family has a long history of academic and professional success. His grandmother was a college graduate as were his mother and father.

The legal profession in Birmingham and beyond has benefited tremendously from his efforts. He is a founder of Miles Law School and for more than 20 years has served as Chairman of the Law School's Board.

As a young lawyer, he worked in the office established by Oscar W. Adams. In the early days of his career, then attorney Pearson handled mostly general practice and civil rights cases. Pearson is very familiar with the role of pioneer. He was appointed Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Northern District of Alabama under President Lyndon Johnson. He was the first African-American in Alabama to hold this position.

He was one of the first of two African-Americans elected to the Alabama Senate. While serving in the legislature, he became the first African-American to chair the powerful Finance and Taxation Committee. He created boards of trustees for Alabama A&M University and Alabama State University. Prior to his election, both universities were under the control of the State Superintendent of Education and administered by the same policy setters who were responsible for public elementary and high schools in the state.

He was appointed to the 10th Circuit Court, Birmingham Division, by Governor George Wallace. He served on the boards of Tuskegee University and Miles College and chaired the committee that selected Dr. Albert J.H. Sloan, II President of Miles College.

The recipient of numerous awards and honors, Judge Pearson is highly respected for his brilliant legal mind, philosophy of justice and the highest degree of integrity.

Judge Pearson serves as special counsel to the Birmingham City Council and advises Councilors on issues of legal consequence. He has guided the Council through stormy waters on several occasions and is a trusted confidante.

As a child, he made dirt pies with a young playmate, who was destined to become his wife. Judge Pearson honestly feels he was born to be the husband of Dr. Juliet Nunn Pearson and treasures every moment he spent with his wife from their wedding day in 1956 until her passing in 1983. Their marriage produced two daughters, Attorney J. Richet Pearson Johnson and Julene R. Pearson, M.D.