



FRED D. GRAY, ESQ.

THE ASALH LUMINARY AWARD

Fred David Gray, a native of Montgomery, Alabama, currently lives in Tuskegee and is a civil rights lawyer. He was educated at the Nashville Christian Institute, Nashville, Tennessee; Alabama State College for Negroes, now Alabama State University, and Case Western Reserve University, Cleveland, Ohio. Mr. Gray's legal career spans a time period of over 67 years. In 1955, he began a dynamic civil rights career; his first civil rights case was representation of Claudette Colvin, a 15-year old African American high school student who refused to give up her seat on a city bus in Montgomery, Alabama. He was one of the first African Americans to serve in the Alabama State Legislature since Reconstruction, he served from 1970-1974. Gray is the first person of color elected as President of the Alabama State Bar Association and served as its 127th President for the year 2002-2003. He is the recipient of numerous awards. On July 7, 2022, Gray was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom at The White House, Washington, D.C. by President Joseph R. Biden. Gray's most recent civil rights case was filed on September 1, 2021, in Macon County, Alabama, against the United Daughters of the Confederacy for erecting a monument to the memory of the confederate soldiers from Macon County.