



Shortly after being sworn in as the first African American to serve on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Justice Louis Butler '77 stopped at his alma mater, the UW Law School. Butler described his experience as a UW law student and encouraged his audience to work hard and aim high.

Louis Butler Visits Law School After Investiture

Less than three hours after being sworn in on August 25, 2004, the first person of color on the Wisconsin Supreme Court, Justice Louis B. Butler, Jr., greeted incoming students in the Legal Education Opportunities (LEO) program, the Law School's national model for recruiting and mentoring students from historically under-represented communities, and welcomed them to the Law School.

Butler, a 1977 UW Law School graduate and a participant in the LEO program, was a Milwaukee public defender and served as a Milwaukee Municipal Court judge and a Milwaukee County Circuit Court judge before his appointment to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. Butler joined students for lunch in the Law School's

atrium and shared a few thoughts about the legal profession and his journey from the south side of Chicago to the Wisconsin Supreme Court. He spoke of his pride in being a part of the entering class at the UW Law School thirty years ago, and urged the entering LEO students to study hard and set their sights high.

Developing Leaders

Louis Butler's appointment to the state's highest court highlights the Law School's strong history of diversity and its role in developing state and national leaders of color. The Law School, through its LEO program, has made a significant contribution toward diversifying the legal profession nationally, graduating over 1,000 lawyers of color.

Butler is one example, but there are many other state leaders who are LEO program graduates. Secretary of Commerce Cory Nettles, Secretary of the Department of Revenue Michael Morgan, and Commissioner of Insurance Jorge Gomez are all UW Law School graduates of color, as is Danae Davis, a member of the UW Board of Regents. Other UW Law School graduates who have been in the press this past year include Paul Higginbotham, the first person of color to serve on any Wisconsin appellate court; Glenn Yamahiro, the state's first Asian-American judge; and Michelle Behnke, the first person of color to be elected president of the State Bar of Wisconsin.

Law School Joins With Courts to Help Divorce Litigants and Train Students

The Fall 2004 semester marks the debut of the Divorce Court Assistance Project, a joint project of the Dane County Courts and the Remington Center's civil law program, the Economic Justice Institute. The project was initiated at the suggestion of Wisconsin Supreme Court and Dane County Judge Moira Krueger in response to the fact that more than 60 percent of family law litigants are unrepresented in court, greater than in any other area of law.

The new Divorce Court Assistance Project (DCAP) is under the supervision of Clinical Assistant Professor Marsha Mansfield, who

brings many years of experience in all aspects of family law. Students will receive referrals from family court judges and court commissioners to work as facilitators with self-represented parties to prepare divorce cases for decision. They will not serve as advocates for either party, but will offer workshops and work with individual litigants to guide the parties through the legal process.

Students will learn the nuts and bolts of Wisconsin's divorce law, both substantively and procedurally. They also will undergo in-depth skills training in interviewing, counseling, and negotiating.