



1993

In Memoriam: Professor James S. May: 1934-1993

Joseph C. Reid
University of Baltimore School of Law

Follow this and additional works at: <http://scholarworks.law.ubalt.edu/ublr>

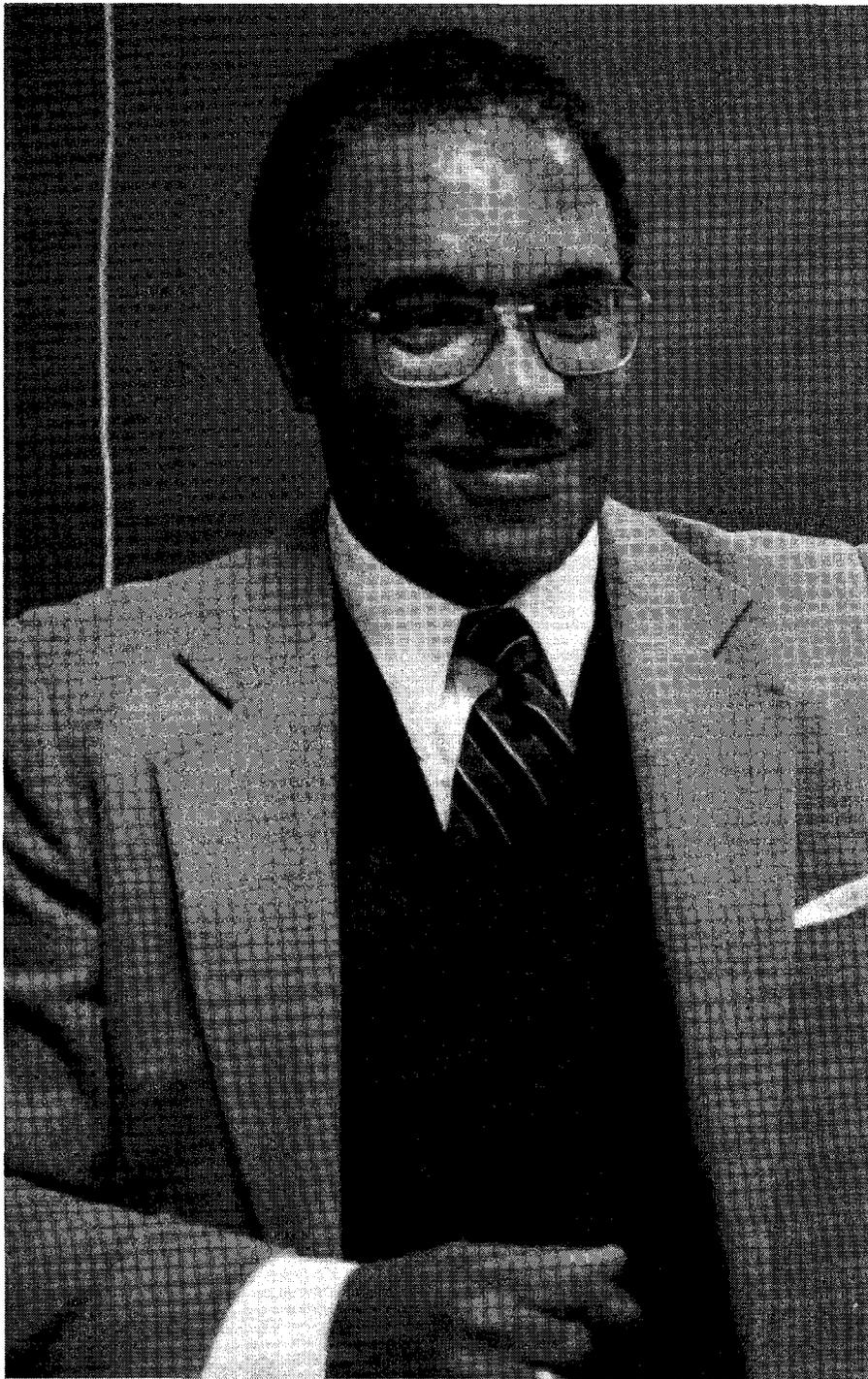


Recommended Citation

Reid, Joseph C. (1993) "In Memoriam: Professor James S. May: 1934-1993," *University of Baltimore Law Review*: Vol. 22: Iss. 2, Article 2.

Available at: <http://scholarworks.law.ubalt.edu/ublr/vol22/iss2/2>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by ScholarWorks@University of Baltimore School of Law. It has been accepted for inclusion in University of Baltimore Law Review by an authorized administrator of ScholarWorks@University of Baltimore School of Law. For more information, please contact snolan@ubalt.edu.



Professor James S. May
1934-1993

UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE LAW REVIEW

Copyright © 1994 by The University of Baltimore Law Review. All rights reserved.

Volume Twenty-Two

Spring 1993

Number Two

IN MEMORIAM: PROFESSOR JAMES S. MAY 1934-1993

Joseph C. Reid†

The *University of Baltimore Law Review* proudly dedicates this issue to the memory of our esteemed colleague, distinguished professor and loving friend, James S. May. We cannot express in words the full gravity of our law school's loss in the untimely death of Professor May. For all who knew or enjoyed the opportunity of working with Jim, his life defines and epitomizes the meaning of discipline, character, integrity and humanity.

A native of Louisville, Kentucky, Jim served more than 25 years in the United States Marine Corps, rising from the rank of private first class to colonel. During his illustrious and decorated military career, Jim obtained an undergraduate degree from Cornell University and a juris doctorate from Yale Law School. In 1981, he became the Marine Corps' first African American trial judge, and was subsequently appointed to the Department of the Navy's highest criminal appellate tribunal, distinguishing himself by establishing key legal precedents in the military law area.

Upon retirement from the Marine Corps in 1990, Jim joined the faculty of the University of Baltimore School of Law. As a member of the Law School's faculty, Jim is most remembered for his joviality, inspirational companionship, and total commitment to the intellectual and moral development of all students. His colleagues will miss his booming voice and constant good humor, and his ability to make everyone feel more comfortable with each other, notwithstanding their apparent differences, is irreplaceable.

Although Professor May will no longer be with us physically, we all know that through the University of Baltimore's School of Law his spirit lives. We will not meet a warmer, more caring, sincere

† A.B., 1979, Harvard College; J.D., 1982 University of Pennsylvania. Of Counsel, McGuire, Woods, Battle & Boothe, Baltimore, MD.

or honest person than Jim. Nonetheless, he leaves a fine legacy of honorable character, unimpeachable integrity and boundless energy which each of us should seek to emulate. For Jim's family, his many friends, caring colleagues and students, Paul Laurence Dunbar's poetic song comes close to expressing our collective feelings on our loss of our friend, colleague and professor.

SYMPATHY

I know what the caged bird feels, alas!
When the sun is bright on the upland slopes;
When the wind stirs soft through the springing grass,
And the river flows like a stream of glass;
When the first bird sings and the first bud opes,
And the faint perfume from its chalice steals—
I know what the caged bird feels!

I know why the caged bird beats his wing
Till its blood is red on the cruel bars;
For he must fly back to his perch and cling
When he fain would be on the bough a-swing;
And a pain still throbs in the old, old scars
And they pulse again with a keener sting—
I know why he beats his wing!

I know why the caged bird sings, ah me,
When his wing is bruised and his bosom sore,—
When he beats his bars and he would be free;
It is not a carol of joy or glee,
But a prayer that he sends from his heart's deep core,
But a plea, that upward to Heaven he flings—
I know why the caged bird sings!

Paul Laurence Dunbar, *The Poetry of the Negro, 1746-1970*, 34
(Langston Hughes & Arna Bontemps, eds., 2d ed. 1970).