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DEDICATION*

Judge Leo A. Jackson

This issue of the Cleveland State Law Review is dedicated with respect, admiration, and appreciation to Judge Leo A. Jackson. Judge Jackson's long and distinguished career began in unlikely circumstances when he was born as the youngest of fifteen children of William and Hattie Howard Jackson in Lake City, Florida, in 1920. Regretfully, this was an era of Jim Crow and blatant racism which severely limited the prospects of a black child.

Nevertheless, Judge Jackson, inspired by his mother's strong belief in education, received a Bachelor of Arts degree from Morehouse College in 1945. He received a Master of Arts Degree from Atlanta University in 1946, and later taught at Florida A. & M. He came to Cleveland in 1946, where he attended Cleveland-Marshall College of Law as an evening student. He received his law degree in 1950, and in 1977 his alma mater, Morehouse, awarded him an honorary LL.D.

In 1957, Judge Jackson was chosen by the people of Ward 24 to represent them in Cleveland City Council. He held this important civic trust until 1970. His service on City Council was marked by active and aggressive representation of the interest and well-being of the members of his ward. He was often in the public eye, and his absolute courage led both admirers and opponents to refer to him as "Leo the Lionhearted." During those years, The Plain Dealer called him "a man of vision"; the Cleveland Press characterized him as being "independent, honest and a fearless fighter for good causes"; and the Citizen's League praised him for being "energetic, fearless, and independent."

In 1970 Judge Jackson was elected to the Eighth District Ohio Court of Appeals, where he served for three consecutive terms. During that time he twice served as Chief Judge, and also sat by special assignment as a member of the Ohio Supreme Court. He demonstrated on the bench the same judicial courage that had exemplified his career as a Councilman. His most important traits as a Judge were his determination to enforce the law and to see that justice was done, no matter who the parties were. He strove to see that equitable decisions were reached without respect to

* The Cleveland State Law Review gratefully acknowledges the effort of Associate Dean Richard L. Aynes of the University of Akron School of Law in the preparation of this dedication.
social status, political background, popularity, race, religion, or any other
factors not relevant to the merits of the case.

His record of public service set a standard for all to emulate. As a judge,
he has made an enduring contribution to our law. He authored hundreds
of reported decisions, including leading cases in the areas of civil
procedure, domestic relations, constitutional law, municipal law, crimi-
nal law, and procedures for the disqualification of judges. These cases
altered the course of the law and are part of our legal heritage.

While living in Cleveland, Judge Jackson was extremely active in a
number of community organizations, and received numerous awards for
outstanding leadership and service. These awards include the Outstand-
ing Leadership Plaque from VFW Major John Fulton Post 3362 in 1961;
the Testimonial Plaque from Citizens of Greater Cleveland in 1963; the
Cleveland Business League Award of Honor in 1966; the Outstanding
Service Plaque from the Glenville Youth Athletic Association in 1967;
the Outstanding Community Service Award from the Cleveland Diocesan
Union of Holy Name Societies of the Catholic Church in 1969; the
Brothers Keeper Award from the Cleveland Jewish Community Federa-
tion in 1969; the Outstanding Leadership Plaque from the NAACP
Orange County Florida Branch in 1975; and the Outstanding Judicial
Service Award from the Ohio Supreme Court in 1973. He is an honorary
life member of the Ohio Congress of Parents and Teachers Board of
Trustees, has served as Treasurer and Chairman, Budget and Finance
Committee of the Greater Cleveland Hospital Association and as a
member of the Board of Trustees of St. Vincent Charity Hospital, Forest
City Hospital, Law Alumni Association of Cleveland-Marshall College of
Law, Consumers League of Ohio, Northern Ohio Children’s Performing
Music Foundation (Singing Angels), Metropolitan YMCA (Executive
Committee) and Lions Eye Clinic, Inc.

Judge Jackson has had a remarkable career. In all his years of
dedicated public service he discharged his duties with the utmost
integrity. Upon his retirement from the bench in January, 1987, he was
honored by the Ohio State Bar Association and was chosen as an
Recognizing the legacy of high achievement and devotion to equal
treatment of all people which Judge Jackson leaves us, we are proud to
join in the tribute to Judge Jackson by the bench and bar and the Alumni
Association by dedicating this issue to him.