

### **Honorable Judge Clarence R. Parrish**

Good Morning Mr. Gurda, and members of the City of Milwaukee Citizen Advisory Committee on the Naming of Public Buildings, Facilities and Streets. I thank you for inviting me to this meeting regarding a resolution assigning the honorary street name "Judge Clarence R. Parrish" to North Teutonia Avenue from West Center Street to West Clarke Street in the 15<sup>th</sup> Aldermanic District of which Russell W. Stamper, II is the alderman.

Born in North Carolina, raised in Brooklyn NY where he earned his law degree from St. John's University , earned his Master's degree in law from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, and a degree from St. Francis Seminary, my father, the late Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Clarence R. Parrish was the first African American in Milwaukee County, Wisconsin to win a contested judicial race on February 8, 1981. While a lawyers, Judge Parrish was the Mayor of Bronzeville. As an attorney his office was located at 2661 N. Teutonia Avenue in Milwaukee for several decades. While serving the people of the community as their lawyer, he was very active in the community. He was one of the founding members of the Wisconsin Black Lawyers Association, president of the Milwaukee NAACP, and a licensed minister at Calvary Baptist Church on Teutonia Avenue.

Judge Parrish served the greater community as the first African American in many capacities such as: the first African American in Wisconsin to serve on the Milwaukee Bar Association Board, Wisconsin Supreme Court Board of Bar Examiners, Magistrate for the City of Milwaukee, and Milwaukee County Court Commissioner. He also taught night classes at Milwaukee Area Technica College.

As an active member of the community there are student scholarships in his name – University of Wisconsin Law School, Omega Psi Phi Fraternity Milwaukee Chapter where he was also a founding member, Greater Milwaukee Foundation, and Sigma Psi Phi Fraternity.

Thank you for this opportunity to present my father, the late Judge Clarence R. Parrish to you and the community.

Atty. Sheila Parrish-Spence, JD, MSE