



HONORARY STREET NAME SIGN APPLICATION

City Hall, Room 205
200 East Wells Street
Milwaukee, WI 53202

PLEASE NOTE: A \$100 PAYMENT MUST ACCOMPANY THIS FORM
(Checks should be made payable to "City Treasurer")

1. Applicant information:

Applicant's Name Atty. Sheila M. Parrish - Spence
Organization or Company Law Offices of Atty. Sheila M. Parrish - Spence - Daughter of Judge Parrish
Street Address 4306 N 95th St City/State Wauwatosa, WI Zip 53222
Telephone 414-379-1070 Fax 414-578-1882 Email smps1us@yahoo.com

2. Honorary Street Name Request

Street name requested Honorable Judge Clarence R. Parrish

Location of proposed designation: (for example, West Main Street from North 12th Street to North 15th Street)

N. Teutonia Ave. and West Center St.

3. Required Submittals:

- Refer to Chapter 113-3, Milwaukee Code of Ordinances (attached)
- A *typed statement* containing no fewer than **500 words** describing the significance of the person, place, or event being honored. The statement should indicate why a particular section of street has been requested for the honorary designation.

4. SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT:

My application consists of the following items necessary to complete the application. Please check:

- ☒ \$100 fee (check made payable to "City Treasurer").
- ☒ Completed Application Form.
- ☒ Autobiography or statement regarding the person, place, or event being honored.

Signature Atty. Sheila M. Parrish - Spence Date September 24, 2024

Printed Name Atty. Sheila M. Parrish - Spence

Honorable Milwaukee County Circuit Court Judge Clarence Randolph Judge Parrish

“The Mayor of Bronzeville” and “The People’s Lawyer”

The first Black lawyer in Milwaukee and Wisconsin to win a contested judicial race was Judge Clarence R. Parrish. Lawyers previously as judges by governors did not win their judicial races and could not keep their judicial seats. (Wisconsin, 1996) Judge Parrish was appointed by Governor Lee Sherman Dreyfus on February 8, 1980, to Milwaukee County Circuit Court Branch 21. Thereafter, he won the contested judicial election. Judge Parrish was on the bench from 1981 to 1992. Judge Parrish died June 23, 1992. Prior to winning the election, Judge Parrish was appointed as a City of Milwaukee Magistrate (judge), and thereafter was appointed as a Milwaukee County judicial court Commissioner. Judge Parrish is the first African-American judge in Milwaukee County to have his picture hung in a courtroom on the fifth floor of the Milwaukee County Courthouse. Judge Maxine White, now Chief Judge of District I Milwaukee County Court of Appeals, presided over the ceremony approved by the late Judge Michael Skwierawski.

Judge Parrish Had Many First and Served the Community

In Who's Who among African Americans. 15th edition. Detroit: Gale Group, 2002, Judge Parrish, is listed as the first Black lawyer in Wisconsin to serve on the Wisconsin Supreme Court Board of Bar Examiners, Milwaukee Bar Association board of directors, as City of Milwaukee magistrate (judge), and Milwaukee County judicial court commissioner. Judge Parrish believed in serving the people and community. As a lawyer, Judge Parrish was active in several legal organizations- the National Bar Association, Wisconsin Bar Association, State Bar of Wisconsin, Society of Family Lawyers-Milwaukee, and founded the Milwaukee Black Lawyers Association. The Mary Church Terrell Club voted him as the Mayor of Bronzeville. Judge Parrish was president of the NAACP in the 1960s. One of his platforms was to integrate the suburbs because they had covenants against minorities living there. In 1965, he built a home in Wauwatosa, Wisconsin. There was no welcoming committee, yet as the years went by Judge Parrish and his family became a part of the community. After time, the city of Wauwatosa appointed Judge Parrish to serve on a city committee.

Personal Background

Attorney Clarence Parrish was born in Louisburg, North Carolina in October 1921 and raised in Brooklyn, New York. Clarence Parrish was the executive director of the Carllton YMCA in Brooklyn, New York. He and his brothers had a dry cleaners in Bedford Bedford-Stuyvesant-Brooklyn, NY. Judge Parrish loved research and writing. Some of his original poems were published in New York Congressman Adam Clayton Powell's newspaper, "The People's Voice." Judge Parrish has published several books, Images of Democracy and Expressions of Faith in the federated library system. Judge Parrish and his wife, Mildred English of Worcester, Massachusetts, were first generation college graduates. Judge Parrish served as a Technical Sergeant in the United States Army in Europe. He graduated from St. John's University Law School in Brooklyn/Queens New York, and graduated from the University of Wisconsin-Madison Law School with a master's degree in labor law. He also graduated from St. Francis Seminary in Milwaukee, Wisconsin with a master's degree. Judge Parrish is a licensed minister. Mildred Parrish graduated from North Carolina Central University (HBCU) in 1944, and later from Marquette University. She was the first Black person to serve on the Alverno College Board of Trustees, and the Marquette University Father Raynor of Marquette University Business Department committee. Their daughters are Atty. Sheila Judge Parrish-Spence, born in Brooklyn, NY, is a Wisconsin attorney and a Milwaukee County supplemental court commissioner. Their younger daughter, Sharon Parrish, is a business owner, was born in Madison, Wisconsin, and resides in Texas.

Law Practice and Business Endeavors

Clarence Parrish and his family moved to Milwaukee, Wisconsin from Madison, Wisconsin and lived in the Bronzeville neighborhood during the "late migration." (Again, 2013) His goal was to be successful in the growth and development of the community. His law offices were on North Avenue. Due to highway construction of the freeway, the office relocated to 2661 N. Teutonia Avenue off Center Street. He became an integral part of the fabric of the community. His clients were mostly African American, Caribbean, Hispanic, Caucasian, and Jewish. He interacted with them in their native languages. Outside of the office, usually there people were lined up or parked outside of his office waiting to be seen because the office was full of people inside. They addressed him as "Atty. P." He was known as "the people's lawyer." Judge Parrish and his wife Mildred created a Children's Christmas Gift program for parents who could not afford gifts for their children. The gifts were wrapped and given to the parents for their children. The couple founded Ben-Hur Real Estate Company, had a tax service, burial assurance company, and rented homes and apartments to those in need. Around the 1970's, the law office was moved to 601 W. Walnut Street. Atty. Parrish and other community leaders joined and collaborated and were successfully built a business complex there consisting of the Dr. George Hilliard Clinic, a bowling alley, restaurant, Parrish Dry Cleaners, and the Law Offices of Atty. Clarence Parrish.

Educational Scholarships in Judge Parrish's Name

Judge Parrish believed that education is the key to a full life. Several organizations have college and law student educational scholarships in Judge Parrish's name. Omega Psi Phi Fraternity, Kappa Phi Chapter in Milwaukee, of which Judge Parrish was a co-founder, has the Clarence R. Parrish Great Omega Golf Outing Fundraiser. The Milwaukee Foundation has the Clarence and Mildred Parrish Scholarship. The Milwaukee chapter of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, the first Black fraternity founded in 1904, (Reed, 2020) of which Judge Parrish was a co-founder and a president, has an educational scholarship. The University of Wisconsin School of Law in Madison, WI has a Clarence R. Parrish Law Student Scholarship for African-Americans.

Community Involvement

Judge Parrish was a co-founder of the Milwaukee Chapter of Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, Delta Omicron in 1964 in Milwaukee. Judge Parrish was a co-founder of Frontiers of Milwaukee, and Kappa Phi Chapter of Omega Psi Phi Fraternity in Milwaukee. He was made an Omega while at St. John's University in New York. Judge Parrish was a guest lecturer at the University of Wisconsin Law School, Milwaukee Area Technical College, guest lecturer in Family Law for the National Bar Association, American Bar Association in Canada, public schools, churches, and non-profit organizations. Judge Parrish was also a 33rd Degree Mason.

Ultimate Servant Leader and Community Contributions

Judge Parrish was a technical sergeant in the United States Army and years later he was appointed to be on the board of Appeal Counsel to Local Draft Board #44. Other community involvement and contributions are: legislative committee of Milwaukee Planned Parenthood Society, Crime Prevention Committee for Milwaukee Bar Association, Legal Services for the Poor Committee, and Board of Trustees of the YWCA of Milwaukee. Judge Parrish was appointed to a board for the City of Wauwatosa. Judge Parrish was a member of the Wisconsin Bar Association, Milwaukee Bar Association, Wisconsin Association of Minority Attorneys, founder of the Milwaukee Chapter-National Bar Association. The National Bar Association was founded in 1925 and the American Bar Association was founded in 1878. History states that Black lawyers were not permitted to join the American Bar Association until 1943. (Walker, 2013)

There are numerous facets of Milwaukee community service that Judge Parrish rendered as a lawyer and as a community activist. Judge Parrish was well known in the various ethnic communities. Judge Parrish and the

first black architect in Wisconsin, Alonzo Robinson, worked together in the design and construction of Calvary Baptist Church and St. Mark AME Church. Some of the organizations he worked with were Scott's Christian Youth Fellowship Center - Naomi Scott, Faith Temple Church of God and Christ-Rev. Claude Edwards, Beechie Brooks - Halyard Park subdivision, Bezelee Martin who was Wisconsin's first Black automobile dealership owner and his Lena's Food Market, Columbia Savings and Loan, Milwaukee Community Journal, Milwaukee Courier, Milwaukee Times, Milwaukee Star, Echo Magazine, Mary Ellen Shadd newspaper, Excellence Magazine (Mildred Parrish publisher), Columbia Savings and Loan, Calvary Baptist Church Development Corporation, Chaplaincy Board, Jeannetta Robinson's Career Youth Development, National Baptist Association, Dr. Warren Klaus, Enchanted Beauty Shop, Ashley's Bar-B-Q, Polansky's Fish Market, and the Billy Braggs Boxing Center. Judge Parrish was on the board of Directors for the Lucayan Towers North Condominium Association Limited in Freeport Grand Bahamas when he and his family had condominium there.

Judge Clarence Randolph Parrish was the ultimate lawyer, judge, servant leader, community advocate, and he strived for excellence in all. Based on the above accomplishments, community service, his love of Bronzeville and Milwaukee, I request that my application for street signs at Teutonia Avenue and Center Street display my father's name - Judge Clarence R. Parrish. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully Submitted by,
Sheila M. Parrish-Spence
Attorney Sheila M. Parrish-Spence, JD, MSE

References

Again, T. O. (2013, August 8). *Bronzeville*. Retrieved from Urban Milwaukee:

<https://urbanmilwaukee.com/2013/08/18/bronzeville-the-old-heart-of-milwaukees-african-america-could-beat-again/>

Reed, R. J. (2020, October 13). *Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity , The Boule' , A Brief Overview (1904-)*. Retrieved from BlackPast.Org: <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/sigma-pi-phi-fraternity-the-boule-a-brief-overview-1904/>

Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity, The Boule' Brief Overview. (2020, October 13). Retrieved from Black Past: <https://www.blackpast.org/african-american-history/sigma-pi-phi-fraternity-the-boule-a-brief-overview-1904/>

Walker, S. (2013). *Today in Civil Liberties History*. Retrieved from American Bar Association Admits First African-American in Three Decades: <https://todayinlh.com/?event=bar-association-admits-first-african-american>

Wisconsin, U. D. (1996, August 1). *Milwaukee Branch NAACP v. Thompson*. Retrieved from Justia US Law: <https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/FSupp/935/1419/2594329/>

Elmer, Linda

From: Marti, Yance
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2024 1:59 PM
To: Elmer, Linda
Subject: Re: Were you able to talk with Atty. Sheila Parrish-Spence re. her honorary application for N. Teutonia and W. Center?

Yes, we are just going to do the one block on N. Teutonia Ave from W. Center to W. Clarke and put the name "Judge Clarence R. Parrish" on the signs.

*Yance V Marti - P.E.
City of Milwaukee, DPW, Infrastructure Services
Central Drafting & Records Manager
841 N Broadway, Room 802
Milwaukee, WI 53202
414-286-2411*

From: Elmer, Linda <lrelmer@milwaukee.gov>
Sent: Friday, October 4, 2024 1:32 PM
To: Marti, Yance <ymarti@milwaukee.gov>
Subject: Were you able to talk with Atty. Sheila Parrish-Spence re. her honorary application for N. Teutonia and W. Center?

If need be, I can re-scan and send it to you.
Thanks – Linda
(and have a good weekend!)

Receipt of Street Naming Fee

Date:	10/4/24
Received Of:	Atty. Sheila Parrish-Spence
Received By:	LME
Check # (If Applicable):	2142017073
Amount Received	\$100.00