# CHARLOTTE HISTORY MAKERS



### **Julius Chambers**

After growing up in North Carolina during the Jim Crow era and seeing firsthand the effects of discrimination, Julius Chambers dedicated his life to fighting for Civil Rights. He became a lawyer and would successfully litigate cases before the Supreme Court. To read more about him, visit:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Julius L. Chambers

## **Barbara Ferguson**

Barbara Ferguson (spouse of James Ferguson) was the founder and director of the Afro American Children's Theatre in Charlotte. She started her own theatre company when she realized children of color were being denied roles and opportunities in local theatre productions. In 2009 she also founded Tomorrow's R.O.A.D. (Roots of the African Diaspora) to promote youth empowerment. To read more about her, visit:

https://www.citizen-times.com/story/news/local/2022/09/16/barbara-ferguson-aact-founder-remembered-for-grace-and-iron-will/69497558007/

### James Ferguson

James Ferguson (spouse of Barbara Ferguson) is a founding member of Ferguson, Stein, Chambers, Gresham and Sumpter PA law firm and has been recognized by the National Law Journal as one of the nation's top 10 litigators. He has also served as Board Chair of Community Building Initiative. To read his full bio, visit:

http://www.fergusonsumter.com/jjames-e-ferguson

## **Ophelia Garmon-Brown**

Ophelia Garmon-Brown was the first black female family-medicine resident at Carolinas Medical Center (now Atrium Health) and went on to co-found Charlotte Community Health Clinic. She would eventually go back to school to earn a master's in divinity and found another clinic in Kenya. To read more about her, visit:

https://philanthropyfocus.org/ophelia/

## **Dot Counts Scoggins**

Dorothy Counts Scoggins is a Charlotte native who initially came to the public's attention as one of the first black students admitted to Harry Harding High School. Photos of the harassment she endured were seen worldwide. Scoggins went on to become a tireless advocate for children's rights and preserving the history of Beatties Ford Road in Charlotte. To read more about her, visit:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Dorothy Counts

### **Sarah Stevenson**

Sarah Stevenson is the first black woman to serve on Charlotte's school board, and founder of the Tuesday Morning Breakfast Forum. She has spent decades working towards equity in education and has been described as "one of the Crown jewels" of the Queen City. To read more about her, visit:

https://www.wbtv.com/2020/09/17/schools-advocate-sarah-stevenson-honored-charlotte-crown-jewel-us-house-floor/

### **Darius & Vera Swann**

Darius & Vera Swann were the plaintiffs in the landmark <u>Swann v Charlotte Mecklenburg Board</u> <u>of Education</u> Supreme Court case that led to desegregation of public schools. To read more about them, visit:

http://www.abenaproductions.com/vAUTHOR.HTM

# **Allegra Westbrooks**

Allegra Westbrooks was the first African American public library supervisor in North Carolina. She advocated for literacy and access to reading materials in her community, and eventually would have a library branch named for her. To read more about her, visit: <a href="https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allegra">https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Allegra</a> Westbrooks