

# Black Legacy Our Past, Present and Future.



## We NEED more like him!

### PAST

**Thurgood Marshall**  
Born: July 02, 1908  
Contribution: Law

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Thurgood Marshall was born the grandson of a slave. His father, William Marshall, instilled in him an appreciation for the Constitution of the United States and the rule of law as a boy. When he would misbehave in school, his dad forced him to read the Constitution. Thurgood later admitted this actually piqued his interest in the document. Marshall graduated cum laude from Lincoln University and received his law degree, magna cum laude, from Howard University. From 1940 to 1961, he served as legal director of the NAACP. Next, he was appointed United States Solicitor General by President Lyndon Johnson where he won 14 of the 19 cases he argued for the government. Afterwards, **he became the first African American elevated to be a Justice on the U.S. Supreme Court.** He went on to win many landslide legal victories for Equal Rights. Although he's best remembered for his jurisprudence in the fields of civil rights and criminal procedure, Marshall also made significant contributions to other areas of the law as well.



## Almost Became President!

### PRESENT

**Reverend Jesse Jackson**  
Born: October 8, 1941  
Contribution: Human Civil Rights

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Jesse Louis Jackson is an American politician, civil rights activist, and Baptist minister. He attended the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and graduated from North Carolina A&T University. As a graduate student, Jesse studied divinity at the Chicago Theological Seminary. Jesse was also very involved with Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s campaign during the Civil Rights era. In 1984, Jackson became the second African American (after Shirley Chisholm) to mount a nationwide campaign for President of the United States, running as a Democrat. He also became a key ally in gaining African American support for President Bill Clinton and eventually became a close advisor and friend of the Clinton family. Clinton awarded Jesse Jackson the Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest honor bestowed on civilians. Jackson also received the Martin Luther King, Jr. Nonviolent Peace Prize in 1993. Jesse Jackson continues to work for racial and economic justice, international peace, and empowerment for society's outsiders.

**What Will You Contribute To The Legacy?**