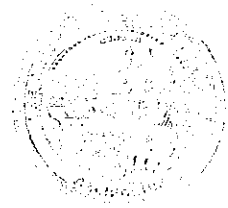


# Superior Court of California

COUNTY OF CONTRA COSTA  
725 COURT STREET  
P.O. BOX 911  
MARTINEZ, CA 94553-0091



To the Board of Supervisors,

Over the decades, our court has been blessed with many wonderful judges and commissioners. They have served our county with distinction and dedication. They have made this a better place to live. If we could, we would name a building for each of them.

Normally, judges labor in semi-obscurity. So, the court is very pleased to see the interest that the public has taken in deciding which judge to honor by giving his name to the Richmond Courthouse. It is a difficult decision, for many judges have served there with great distinction.

There is no doubt, however, that Judge George Carroll is one of those. He practiced law in Richmond from 1953 to 1965. He was elected to the Richmond City Council July 1, 1961. He became Mayor of Richmond in July 1964, the first African – American to hold such a position in a major city in the United States. He was appointed to the Richmond Municipal Court in May, 1965 as the first African-American member of our bench. The Richmond Court then merged into the Bay Municipal Court in 1977. Judge Carroll was the Presiding Judge six times during his twenty two years on the Bench.

For all these reasons, Judge Carroll's name would be on the short list of anyone considering an appropriate name for the courthouse. Therefore, as Presiding Judge, I agree that it is fitting that the Richmond Courthouse bear his name. It is a great tribute to a great man.

I only wish that we had more buildings so we could honor even more of our great public servants.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mary Ann O'Malley".

Mary Ann O'Malley  
Presiding Judge  
Contra Costa Superior Court



## RESOLUTION OF THE RICHMOND NAACP

WHEREAS, retired Judge George D. Carroll was born on January 6, 1923 in Brooklyn, New York and served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was stationed overseas in Italy;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll moved to Berkeley, California in 1952 and moved to Richmond in 1954 and has been a Richmond resident since that time;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll graduated from Brooklyn College in 1943 and Brooklyn Law School in 1950 having been a member of the honor society and was admitted to the New York Bar in 1950;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll worked in the Office of the District Attorney of Kings County (Brooklyn) from 1946 to 1951 and was an attorney in private practice in New York from 1951 to 1952, and was the first African American lawyer to practice law in Richmond when he opened his office in 1953 and served in private practice until 1965;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll was elected to the Richmond City Council in 1961 and served until 1965, and served as mayor of the City of Richmond from July 1964 until his appointment as a Judge in May 1965 earning him the distinction of being the first African American to become mayor of a major U.S. city;

WHEREAS, Governor Edmund G. ("Pat") Brown appointed Judge Carroll to the Contra Costa Municipal Court in May 1965 making Judge Carroll the first African American Judge to be appointed in Contra Costa County where he served until his retirement in 1985 after having been re-elected without opposition in 1970, 1976 and 1982;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll served six times as the Presiding Judge of the Bay Municipal Court and turned down an opportunity to be appointed a Superior Court Judge by Governor Edmund G. ("Jerry") Brown, Jr. in order to continue serving as a judge in Richmond and not move to the bench in Martinez;

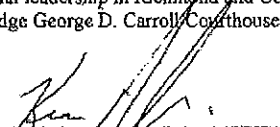
WHEREAS, Judge Carroll is a founding member of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association which is the nation's oldest and largest national association of predominately African American lawyers and judges, and is a former member of the Charles Houston Bar Association, California Judges Association, American Bar Association, American Judicature Society, World Association of Judges of the World Peace Through Law Center, Board of Governors of the United Bay Area Crusade, Richmond Boys' Club, and the Neighborhood House of North Richmond;

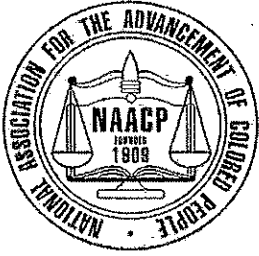
WHEREAS, Judge Carroll is a life members of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) and the Sigma Pi Phi and Omega Phi Fraternities and was named Man of the Year in 1964 by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the San Francisco Sun Reporter newspaper which was the first African American owned newspaper in the Bay Area;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll has been a well-respected community, political, legal and judicial leader in the Richmond and Contra Costa County communities since the 1950's and is considered a trailblazer for African Americans and people of color in the political, legal and judicial communities in West Contra Costa County;

WHEREAS, the Richmond Courthouse (located at 100-37<sup>th</sup> Street, Richmond, CA) is the major symbol of the judicial system in West County and is a major public community building where West County residents go to serve on juries, handle traffic, parking and small claims matters, visit the County District Attorneys' and Veterans' Services offices, and is adjacent to the County's Health Center;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Executive Committee and Members of the National Association of Colored People (NAACP) of Richmond, California hereby honors and acknowledges Judge George D. Carroll (retired) for his decades of political and judicial leadership in Richmond and Contra Costa County and support naming the Richmond Courthouse as the Judge George D. Carroll Courthouse.

  
 Ken Nelson, President  
 NAACP Richmond Branch  
 February 18, 2009



# NAACP

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## **NATIONAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

### **East Contra Costa County Branch**

### **RESOLUTION**

In Honor of

**Judge George D. Carroll (Ret.)**

WHEREAS, retired Judge George D. Carroll was born on January 6, 1923 in Brooklyn, New York and served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was stationed overseas in Italy;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll moved to Berkeley, California in 1952 and moved to Richmond in 1954 and has been a Richmond resident since that time;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll graduated from Brooklyn College in 1943 and Brooklyn Law School in 1950 having been a member of the honor society and was admitted to the New York Bar in 1950;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll worked in the Office of the District Attorney of Kings County (Brooklyn) from 1946 to 1951 and was an attorney in private practice in New York from 1951 to 1952, and was the first African-American lawyer to practice law in Richmond when he opened his office in 1953 and served in private practice until 1965;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll was elected to the Richmond City Council in 1961 and served until 1965, and served as Mayor of the City of Richmond from July 1964 until his appointment as a Judge in May 1965 earning him the distinction of being the first African-American to become mayor of a major U.S. city;

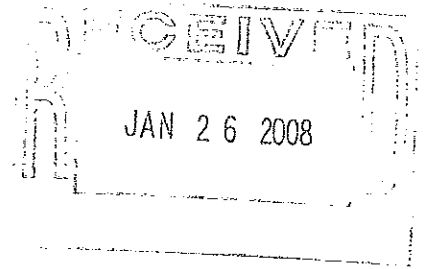
WHEREAS, Governor Edmund G. ("Pat") Brown appointed Judge Carroll to the Contra Costa Municipal Court in May 1965 making Judge Carroll the first African-American Judge to be appointed in Contra Costa County where he served until his retirement in 1985 after having been re-elected without opposition in 1970, 1976 and 1982;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll served six times as the Presiding Judge of the Bay Municipal Court and turned down an opportunity to be appointed a Superior Court Judge by Governor Edmund G. ("Jerry") Brown, Jr. in order to continue serving as a judge in Richmond and not move to the bench in Martinez;

STATE CAPITOL  
SACRAMENTO, CA 95814  
(916) 651-4007

# California State Senate

SENATOR  
MARK DESAULNIER  
SEVENTH SENATE DISTRICT



January 22, 2009

The Honorable John Gioia  
Supervisor, District One  
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D  
El Cerrito, CA 94530

**RE: JUDGE GEORGE D. CARROLL**

Dear Supervisor Gioia:

I write to you in support of naming the Richmond Courthouse in honor of retired Richmond Municipal Court Judge George D. Carroll.

As a Richmond resident since 1954, Judge Carroll has been a remarkable member of the community, spanning decades of public service as a respected attorney, an elected official, and judge. Having grown up on the East Coast and served in the United States Army during World War II, he graduated cum laude from Brooklyn Law School in 1950 and was admitted to the New York Bar. He began his distinguished legal career in Brooklyn with the Office of the District Attorney of Kings County before entering private practice. Several years later, he moved his private practice to Richmond, California.

Judge Carroll became politically active in his new community and was elected to the Richmond City Council in 1961, serving as mayor from July 1964 until his appointment to the bench. He had the distinction of being the first African-American to become mayor of a major United States city.

In 1965, he was appointed to the Richmond Municipal Court by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Sr., becoming the first African-American appointed to the bench in Contra Costa County. Judge Carroll served on the Richmond Municipal Court (which merged in 1977 into the Bay Municipal Court) until his retirement in 1985, after having been re-elected without opposition in 1970, 1976 and 1982. The respect he enjoyed from his colleagues is evidenced by his being selected six times to serve as the Presiding Judge of the Bay Municipal Court.



Loni Hancock SENATOR, NINTH DISTRICT

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January 13, 2009

John Gioia  
Supervisor, District One  
Contra Costa County Board of Supervisors  
11780 San Pablo Ave., Suite D  
El Cerrito, CA 94530

RE: JUDGE GEORGE D. CARROLL

Dear Supervisor Gioia:

It is with great pleasure that I write to you in support of naming the Richmond Courthouse in honor of retired Richmond Municipal Court Judge George D. Carroll.

As a Richmond resident since 1954, Judge Carroll has been a remarkable member of the community, spanning decades of public service as a respected attorney, an elected official, and judge. Having grown up on the East Coast and serving in the United States Army during World War II, he graduated cum laude from Brooklyn Law School in 1950 and was admitted to the New York Bar. He began his distinguished legal career in Brooklyn with the Office of the District Attorney of Kings County before entering private practice. Several years later, he moved his private practice to Richmond, California.

Here, Judge Carroll became politically active in his community and was elected to the Richmond City Council in 1961 and served as mayor from July 1964 until his appointment to the Bench. He had the distinction of being the first African-American to become mayor of a major United States city.

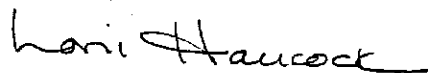
In 1965, he was appointed to the Richmond Municipal Court by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Sr., becoming the first African-American appointed to the Bench in Contra Costa County. Judge Carroll served on the Richmond Municipal Court (which merged in 1977 into the Bay Municipal Court) until his retirement in 1985, after having been re-elected without opposition in 1970, 1976 and 1982. The respect he enjoyed from his colleagues is evidenced by his being selected six times to serve as the Presiding Judge of the Bay Municipal Court. His dedication to the people of Richmond led him to turn down an opportunity to be appointed Superior Court Judge by Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. in order to continue serving as a Municipal Judge.

Judge Carroll has many other distinctions. He is a founding member of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association, the nation's oldest and largest national association of predominately African American lawyers and judges. He has been a member of the Charles Houston Bar Association, California Judges Association, American Bar Association, American Judicature Society, World Association of Judges of the World Peace Through Law Center, Board of Governors of the United Bay Area Crusade, Richmond Boys' Club, and the Neighborhood House of North Richmond.

Additionally, he is Life Member of the N.A.A.C.P. and the Sigma Pi Phi and Omega Psi Phi Fraternities and was named Man of the Year in 1964 by the San Francisco Sun Reporter (the first African-American owned newspaper in the Bay Area).

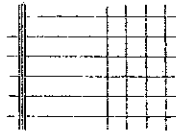
It is for these, and many other reasons, that I believe it is appropriate to name the Richmond Municipal Court in honor of Judge George D. Carroll, who has given so much to the City of Richmond. We now have an opportunity to show our appreciation for his decades of public service to this community.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Loni Hancock". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned below the word "Sincerely,".

LONI HANCOCK  
Senator

LH:tw



Genser & Watkins LLP  
*Attorneys at Law*

JAN 17 2008

January 16, 2009

Honorable John Gioia  
Supervisor, District 1  
Contra Costa County  
11780 San Pablo Avenue, Suite D  
El Cerrito, CA 94530

Re: West Contra Costa County Courthouse

Dear John:

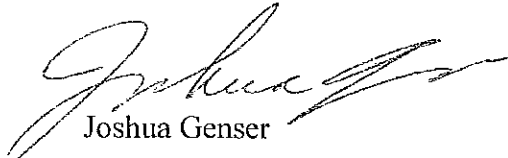
I understand that the Board of Supervisors is considering naming the West County Courthouse. If so, I urge you very strongly to name it after the Honorable George Carroll.

The symbolism of naming West County's Courthouse after the first African-American Judge in Contra Costa County is obvious, but nevertheless compelling. West County has a large African-American population and one that is highly sensitive to race and proud, justifiably so, of its record in electing African-American public servants. Judge Carroll was not only the first African-American Judge in the County, but the first African-American Mayor of Richmond, and one of the first in the country since Reconstruction.

Judge Carroll deserves the honor for much more than symbolism, however. Judge Carroll was (and still is) a wise man and a kind soul. His accomplishments were earned and well-deserved. He mentored many a young attorney, and was an example for all, regardless of ethnicity.

Please encourage your colleagues to vote to name the West County Courthouse for Judge George Carroll.

Very truly yours,



Joshua Genser

One small way in which Judge Carroll touched my life might illustrate. A few months after my first trial, Judge Carroll asked if I wanted to attend a weekly Rotary Club luncheon at the service chapter of which he was a member. I agreed and accompanied him to a noon meeting. He introduced me to other members of the club that day as a young man working in the county's public defender office, and suggested that I should join someday. Virtually all of the members of that club were Caucasian businessmen. But it was not lost on anyone at the meeting that the first African American judge in the county had brought me, a young African American lawyer working for Contra Costa County, to their meeting for a reason: Judge Carroll was teaching by example a "young man" (as he called me) about the importance of commitment to the community as a part of public service.

I did not join the Club. But, I shared the story for this reason. The term "role model" has been bandied about in many contexts. For African American professionals in Northern California and for me as a public defender in this county, no one has played a greater role as a "model" than has Judge Carroll. In my view, a new generation of lawyers of color, like President-elect Obama, benefited from the road paved decades ago by courageous, humble and resilient people of service to their community like Judge Carroll.

Mine, however, is only one story among thousands. Judge Carroll has served in so many "roles" for so many years. As a Mayor, a distinguished jurist, and as a member of many organizations rooted in under-resourced and underserved communities like Richmond in West County, Judge Carroll always worked to bring fairness and equality before the law to people in the community -- and to see those values applied to, or supplied by, the government that serves them.

In conclusion, I cannot emphasize enough how much it would be a great source of pride and recognition for everyone who shares roots as deep as Judge Carroll's in west Contra Costa County to see his name on the community's courthouse. I can envision no more deserved honor for the man. And I can envision no more fitting symbol for the court that would bear that name.

Sincerely yours,



David Coleman  
Contra Costa County  
Public Defender

cc: David Twa, County Administrator



## **RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF RICHMOND**

WHEREAS, retired Judge George D. Carroll was born on January 6, 1923 in Brooklyn, New York and served in the U.S. Army during World War II and was stationed overseas in Italy;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll moved to Berkeley, California in 1952 and moved to Richmond in 1954 and has been a Richmond resident since that time;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll graduated from Brooklyn College in 1943 and Brooklyn Law School in 1950 having been a member of the honor society and was admitted to the New York Bar in 1950;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll worked in the Office of the District Attorney of Kings County (Brooklyn) from 1946 to 1951 and was an attorney in private practice in New York from 1951 to 1952, and was the first African-American lawyer to practice law in Richmond when he opened his office in 1953 and served in private practice until 1965;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll was elected to the Richmond City Council in 1961 and served until 1965, and served as Mayor of the City of Richmond from July 1964 until his appointment as a Judge in May 1965 earning him the distinction of being the first African-American to become mayor of a major U.S. city;

WHEREAS, Governor Edmund G. ("Pat") Brown appointed Judge Carroll to the Contra Costa Municipal Court in May 1965 making Judge Carroll the first African-American Judge to be appointed in Contra Costa County where he served until his retirement in 1985 after having been re-elected without opposition in 1970, 1976 and 1982;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll served six times as the Presiding Judge of the Bay Municipal Court and turned down an opportunity to be appointed a Superior Court Judge by Governor Edmund G. ("Jerry") Brown, Jr. in order to continue serving as a judge in Richmond and not move to the bench in Martinez;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll is a founding member of the Judicial Council of the National Bar Association which is the nation's oldest and largest national association of predominately African-American lawyers and judges, and is a former member of the Charles Houston Bar Association, California Judges Association, American Bar Association, American Judicature Society, World Association of Judges of the World Peace Through Law Center, Board of Governors of the United Bay Area Crusade, Richmond Boys' Club, and the Neighborhood House of North Richmond;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll is a life member of the NAACP and the Sigma Pi Phi and Omega Phi Fraternities and was named Man of the Year in 1964 by the Omega Psi Phi Fraternity and the San Francisco Sun Reporter newspaper which was the first African-American owned newspaper in the Bay Area;

WHEREAS, Judge Carroll has been a well-respected community, political, legal and judicial leader in the Richmond and Contra Costa County community since the 1950's and is considered a trailblazer for people of color in the political, legal and judicial communities in West Contra Costa County;

WHEREAS, the Richmond Courthouse (located at 100-37<sup>th</sup> St., Richmond) is the major symbol of the judicial system in West County and is a major public community building where West County residents go to serve on juries, handle traffic, parking and small claims matters, visit the County District Attorneys' and Veterans' Services offices, and is adjacent to the County's Health Center;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Richmond City Council hereby honors and acknowledges Judge George D. Carroll (retired) for his decades of political and judicial leadership in Richmond and Contra Costa County and supports naming the Richmond Courthouse as the Judge George D. Carroll Courthouse.

Sponsored by Councilmembers Nat Bates, Jim Rogers and Maria Viramontes.

# BAPAC ("bay Pack") CCC

BLACK AMERICAN POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE OF CONTRA COSTA COUNTY

PAC # 990118

180 BROADWAY, SUITE A • RICHMOND, CALIFORNIA 94805



**PRESIDENT**

Joe L. Fisher

January 11, 2009

**VICE PRESIDENT**

Vernon Whitmore

Supervisor John Gioia

11780 San Pablo Ave.

Suite D

El Cerrito, California 94530

**TREASURER**

Lloyd Madden

**SECRETARY**

Kevin Hampton

Dear John:

**SERGEANT at ARMS**

Donald Hampton

We are very supportive of your efforts to name the new County Court Building in honor of retired Judge George Carroll. He served as a judge in Richmond for 25 years. Judge Carroll was the first African American to serve as a member of the Contra Costa County judiciary.

**BOARD of DIRECTORS**

Carl Adams

Bob Dabney

Micheal Davenport

Leon Hunter

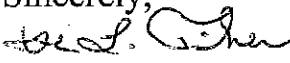
Joe Eddy McDonald

Jim McMillan

Jake Sloan

Tony Thurmond

There have been only three African American judges in the history of our county. We urge you to fight for this important recognition.

Sincerely,  
  
Joe L. Fisher