

BP ADAMS TO HOST CELEBRATION OF LIFE SERVICE FOR HONORABLE JUSTICE WILLIAM C. THOMPSON

4:45 PM

THURSDAY, JANUARY 17TH

BROOKLYN BOROUGH HALL – COURTROOM

209 JORALEMON STREET

DOWNTOWN BROOKLYN

Tomorrow at 4:45 PM, Brooklyn Borough President Eric L. Adams will host a celebration of life service in the Courtroom of Brooklyn Borough Hall in honor of Honorable Justice William C. Thompson, who distinguished himself as the first Black state senator from Brooklyn, the first Black administrative judge in Kings County, and the first Black judge in the New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, 2nd Department. Joining him in providing remarks will be former New York City Mayor David Dinkins; former Representative Charles Rangel; New York State Supreme Court, Appellate Division, 2nd Department Associate Justice Honorable Sylvia Hinds-Radix; Kings County Supreme Court Presiding Justice Honorable Sylvia G. Ash; Judges And Lawyers Breast Cancer Alert (JALBCA) Past President Honorable Ellen Spodek; Brooklyn District Attorney Eric Gonzalez, as well as other colleagues, family members, and personal friends. The celebration's master of ceremonies will be former New York City Comptroller Bill Thompson, Jr., Justice Thompson's son.

Justice Thompson is survived by his son Bill, his daughter Gail, and countless other loving family members and friends. A graduate of Brooklyn College and Brooklyn Law School, he served as a sergeant in World War II with the "Buffalo Soldiers" of the Army's 92nd Infantry Division. He was first elected to the New York State Senate in 1965, and as chair of the Joint Legislative Committee on Child Care Needs, he sponsored more than 25 bills that were signed into law. After serving on the New York City Council from 1969 to 1973, he was first elected a Justice of the New York State Supreme Court in 1974. In 1980, Governor Hugh L. Carey designated Justice Thompson as Associate Justice of the Appellate Division, 2nd Department, where for two decades he analyzed more than 24,00 cases. He retired from the bench in 2001 and, due to his love of the law, returned to private practice until his passing. Justice Thompson was co-chair of Blacks and Jews in Conversation, co-chair of the Committee to Promote Public

Trust and Confidence in the Legal System, and treasurer of JALBCA. Along with the late Robert F. Kennedy, Jr., he co-founded the Bedford Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation, in addition to serving as its director. Justice Thompson was also an original director of Bedford Stuyvesant Youth-In-Action, regional director of the NAACP, president of the Brooklyn Law School Alumni Association, as well as member of the American Bar Association, Brooklyn Bar Association, Judicial Friends Association, New York State Commission on Judicial Conduct, and Torah Club.

PLEASE NOTE: RSVP is required for media coverage of this event; please email sringel@brooklynbp.nyc.gov if interested in coverage. Space in the Courtroom is limited, so coverage opportunities will be granted based on timeliness of RSVP response. Coverage and interview opportunities will be open in the overflow spaces of the Community Room and Rotunda.

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