



PRESS RELEASE

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Contact: Maria Aselage, HearSay Communications
(843) 513-7605 ~ maria@hearsaycommunications.com

Charleston County Bar Association Bestows Judge Richard E. Fields with the Prestigious Petigru Award

CHARLESTON, SC (September 19, 2013) – The Charleston County Bar Association honored Judge Richard E. Fields this evening with the prestigious James Louis Petigru Award. Judge Fields received the award at a special ceremony at the Mills House Hotel in downtown Charleston. “Judge Fields is a man committed to the practice of law and of service to his community,” said Lad Howell, President of the Charleston County Bar Association. “The Charleston County Bar Association felt it was important to honor Judge Fields not only for his work as an attorney and a judge, but as a man of high integrity, honor, and compassion.”

Judge Fields is a leader in the South Carolina community. He earned his business degree at the West Virginia State College (now University) in 1944 and his law degree from Howard University in 1947. Two years later, he moved to Charleston and was the first African American attorney to open a law office since the early 1900’s. During his legal career, Judge Fields served as Municipal Judge for the City of Charleston, a Family Court judge and a Circuit Court Judge. He retired from the bench in 1992. Since then, Judge Fields has stayed active in the community. He works with the Center for Heirs Property, serves on several boards and is active in his church. “Judge Fields embodies all the best qualities of a judge,” said Frank McCann, Chairman of the Petigru Award Committee for the Charleston County Bar Association. “He is patient, he listens, he is knowledgeable of the law and human nature, he is tolerant, and he is fair. Judge Fields is the model of the ‘wise judge’ and that wisdom is the result of character, experience, and a good heart.”

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The James Louis Petigru Award is the highest honor that is bestowed by the Charleston County Bar Association. It is not an annual award; it is only awarded at the discretion of a standing committee of the County Bar to formally recognize an individual who brings honor to the legal profession.

Judge Fields is only the third to receive the Petigru award. The other two recipients are Coming Ball Gibbs, a prominent criminal defense attorney and Morris D. Rosen, founder of Rosen, Rosen & Hagood Law Firm.

About the Charleston County Bar Association

The Charleston County Bar Association supports attorneys throughout the county by providing networking opportunities, sponsoring continuing education seminars and serving as a resource to those in the legal community. The Bar Association is also committed to assisting community members by providing pro-bono legal services and supporting various non-profit organizations in the area. The Charleston County Bar Association was founded by in 1699 by Nicholas Trott - an 18th century British judge, legal scholar and writer - when he arrived in Charles Town from Lewisham, London, England.