

Georgia State University College of Law

Reading Room

Henry J. Miller Distinguished Lecture Series

Fall 12-5-1988

Fourth Miller Lecture featuring The Honorable A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr.

Georgia State University College of Law

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THE HENRY J. MILLER DISTINGUISHED LECTURERS

Inaugural Lecturer:
Murray L. Schwartz
Spring 1987

Antonin Scalia
Fall 1987

Stephen Gillers
Spring 1988

A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr.
Fall 1988

The Fourth Henry J. Miller Distinguished Lecturer

THE HONORABLE A. LEON HIGGINBOTHAM, JR.

December 5, 1988



Presented by the
Georgia State University
College of Law
and Sponsored through a generous grant from
the Loridans Foundation



The Honorable
A. LEON HIGGINBOTHAM, JR.

Judge Leon Higginbotham is a Circuit Judge for the United States Court of Appeals in the Third Circuit (Philadelphia, Pennsylvania) appointed by President Jimmy Carter in October 1977. Well known for his work on race and American law, Judge Higginbotham has a long and prestigious career.

Born on February 25, 1928 in Trenton, New Jersey, Judge Higginbotham was educated in New Jersey public schools. Later he attended Purdue University, studying engineering, and graduated from Antioch College in 1949. He attended Yale Law School where he earned his LLB degree in 1952. In addition to his formal education, Judge Higginbotham holds 40 honorary degrees from other institutions of higher education.

Judge Higginbotham began his career in 1952 as clerk for Justice Curtis Bok. Shortly thereafter he took the post of Assistant District Attorney of Philadelphia County and held various public offices for several years while also working as a partner in the law firm of Norris, Green, Harris & Higginbotham (Philadelphia).

On September 25, 1962, President John Kennedy nominated Judge Higginbotham for a seven-year term as Commissioner of the Federal Trade Commission. He was the first black to be named to a commission-level post of any federal regulatory agency and the youngest person to be named a Commissioner at the F.T.C.

Judge Higginbotham has received more than fifty local, regional and national honors, including being named one of the Ten Most Outstanding Young Men in America by the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and the Martin Luther King Award for outstanding service in the field of human rights. Judge Higginbotham is listed in *Who's Who* (National), *Who's Who Among Black Americans*, the *International Who's Who of Contemporary Achievement*, and *Ebony's* 100 Most Influential Black Americans, among others.

He has served on the Boards of Trustees or as a member of more than thirty national organizations, including the National Commission on the Causes and Prevention of Violence (by appointment of President Lyndon Johnson), and two appointments by the U.S. Supreme Court to special committees. His many other contributions include serving on the Board of Directors of the National Geographic Society and the Boards of Trustees of Thomas Jefferson University and the University of Pennsylvania.

Judge Higginbotham's book, "In the Matter of Color: Race and the American Legal Process: The Colonial Period" has received several national awards.

The Henry J. Miller Distinguished Lecture Series

Henry J. Miller Distinguished Lecture Series was established in the Georgia State University College of Law by a grant from the Loridans Foundation. The series is named for Henry J. Miller, a partner in the law firm of Alston & Bird for more than 50 years and a past president of the Loridans Foundation.

The lecture by Judge Leon Higginbotham is only the fourth in the Distinguished Lecture Series. The lectures are held at the Georgia State University campus every fall and spring terms. Previous lecturers were Murray L. Schwartz (Spring 1987), Antonin Scalia (Fall 1987), and Stephen Gillers (Spring 1988).

Henry J. Miller

Henry J. Miller is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Emory University and of the Harvard University Law School, from which he graduated in 1929. He was admitted in the same year to the Georgia Bar and he became associated with the law firm which was the predecessor to Alston & Bird, an association which lasted for more than 50 years.

During his distinguished career, Mr. Miller served as counsel to the C&S National Bank and also served as a bank Director. He also served on the Boards of Directors of the Atlanta Gas Light Company and the American Southern Insurance Company.

Mr. Miller has also served his profession with distinction as a member of the American Law Institute, The American Judicature Society, and as a Fellow of the American College of Probate Counsel. He was Chairman of the Georgia State Board of Bar Examiners from 1966 through 1970.

From 1973 to 1976, Mr. Miller was one of the three-member Committee (which included Harvard's Dean Griswold) which reviewed *amicus* briefs for the American Bar Association. In 1980 he was designated "*Amicus Curiae*" of the Supreme Court of Georgia "in recognition of (his) distinguished service and contribution to the improvement of the administration of justice." In 1977 and 1978 he was a Visiting Professor at the Emory University Law School.

The College of Law at Georgia State University

The Georgia State University College of Law was founded in 1982 by the Board of Regents of the University System of Georgia. By 1984 the American Bar Association had awarded the College provisional accreditation. The College of Law accommodates both full-time and part-time students, and now has over 400 alumni who have had an excellent reception from the Bar. Currently under the leadership of Dean Marjorie F. Knowles, its many accomplishments include winning a moot court national championship in 1987-88.