



RICHARD A. BROWN
DISTRICT ATTORNEY

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY
QUEENS COUNTY
125-01 QUEENS BOULEVARD
KEW GARDENS, NEW YORK 11415-1568
718-286-6000**

Release # 39-2007
www.queensda.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2007

CONTACT: KEVIN RYAN
NICOLE NAVAS
MERIS CAMPBELL
(718) 286-6315

**DISTRICT ATTORNEY RICHARD A. BROWN CELEBRATES BLACK HISTORY MONTH
BY PRESENTING 6TH ANNUAL WILLIAM TUCKER GARVIN AWARD
TO STATE DEPUTY CHIEF ADMINISTRATIVE JUDGE JUANITA BING NEWTON**

District Attorney Richard A. Brown celebrated Black History Month by today presenting Justice Juanita Bing Newton, the New York State Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives and New York City Criminal Court Administrative Judge, with the William Tucker Garvin Public Service Award.

The William Tucker Garvin Public Service Award was established in 2001 in honor of the first African-American Assistant District Attorney appointed in Queens County. The award is presented annually during Black History Month to an individual of African-American descent in recognition of his or her notable contributions to public service.

“Sometimes a whisper speaks louder than a shout. Clearly, that statement defines William Tucker Garvin who led a quiet, unassuming and yet remarkable life, breaking down racial barriers and overcoming prejudices at a time when segregation was still prevalent in this county,” said District Attorney Brown. “The dedication, perseverance and integrity that he brought to his job each day paved the way for future African-Americans and is reflected in the long and distinguished legal career of this year’s honoree – Judge Juanita Bing Newton – whose own leadership and compassion for justice and public service has motivated and inspired many, just like William Garvin.”

Judge Newton, a native New Yorker, began her career in public service in New York in 1975 as an Assistant District Attorney in the Bronx County District Attorney’s Office, where she rose to the position of Chief of the Arson/Economic Crimes Unit before leaving after eight years to serve as Counsel and Executive Director to the New York State Sentencing Guidelines Commission which was established to review and reform New York State’s criminal justice sentencing structure. In 1985, Judge Newton was named the Executive Assistant to the Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for New York City.

In December 1986, Judge Newton began the second phase of her legal career by accepting a judicial appointment by then-Governor Mario M. Cuomo to the New York State Court of Claims. For more than a decade, she served as an Acting Justice of the Supreme Court in New York County, first as a trial judge and then as the Administrative Judge. In 1999, Judge Newton was appointed by Chief Administrative Judge Jonathan Lippman to the statewide position of Deputy Chief Administrative Judge for Justice Initiatives, where she is responsible for providing statewide oversight in developing and implementing programs to assure meaningful access to justice for all New York citizens. In 2003, Judge Newton assumed an additional assignment when she was appointed as the Administrative Judge of the Criminal Court for the City of New York.

Judge Newton received her undergraduate degree from Northwestern University and her law degree from Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law, in Washington, D.C.

Judge Newton is a member of several committees and organizations including the New York County Lawyers’ Association Task Force to Increase Diversity in the Legal Profession of which she is Chair. She was recently named a member of the CUNY Law School Board of Visitors and the American Bar Association’s Commission on Sentencing, Corrections and Re-entry.

The Garvin Award was presented at a reception in the District Attorney’s third-floor conference room at his office in Kew Gardens and attended by numerous judges, public officials, assistant district attorneys and members of Mr. Garvin’s family, including his sister, Earline Garvin Hollingsworth.

William Tucker Garvin was born on November 28, 1898, in South Carolina. Upon graduating from Orangeburg State College in South Carolina, Mr. Garvin moved to Manhattan where he worked in the post office while attending law school. He graduated from St. John's University Law School in 1931 as one of two of the first African-American graduates from the Law School. He went on to establish a civil practice in Harlem and later moved to Queens where in 1943 he was appointed by the Queens Borough President to serve on local School Board 50 – the first African-American to hold that position. Mr. Garvin was appointed as an Assistant District Attorney on January 1, 1952, and he retired after a distinguished career in July 1966, one month prior to his death. He is buried in Maple Grove Cemetery in Kew Gardens.

Previous recipients of the Garvin Award have included former New York City Mayor David M. Dinkins, U.S. Congressman Gregory W. Meeks, Queens Administrative Judge Leslie G. Leach, and former United States Deputy Attorney General Eric H. Holder.

#

Note to Editors: Press release e-version posted at www.queensda.org.