



THE JUDGE ALEXANDER WILLIAMS, JR.  
CENTER FOR EDUCATION,  
JUSTICE & ETHICS

**BE CURIOUS. BE COURAGEOUS. BE COMPASSIONATE.**

**THE SECOND ANNUAL  
JUDGE ALEXANDER  
WILLIAMS, JR.  
LECTURE**

Thursday, November 14, 2019

The Hotel at the University of Maryland

# ABOUT US

Having served two terms as the elected *States Attorney for Prince George's County, Maryland*, Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. recognized the importance of social justice issues concerning education, justice, ethical leadership, and civic responsibility. During his nearly twenty-year tenure as an *Article III Judge on the United States District Court for the District of Maryland*, Judge Williams witnessed the ways in which mandatory minimum sentencing has contributed to mass incarceration and racial disparities in the criminal justice system. In an effort to address this and similar injustices within our legal, social, and political institutions, Judge Williams retired his appointment and founded *The Judge Alexander Williams, Jr. Center for Education, Justice & Ethics* as a non-profit, 501(c)(3) organization in 2013.

After entering into a partnership with the University of Maryland, College Park, in 2016, the Judge AW Center was (re)established under the College of Behavioral & Social Sciences within the Department of African American Studies. The Center strives to address social inequalities resulting from histories of discrimination, injustice, and the disparate impact of educational, legal, and social policies that further exacerbate gaps in opportunities and outcomes among vulnerable populations in Maryland, the United States, and throughout the world.

The mission of the Judge AW Center is *to research, develop solutions to, and provide a forum for discussing the prevailing issues facing underserved and disadvantaged communities in Maryland, the United States, and the world today*. Our vision is to operationalize restorative social justice by advancing racial equity and addressing the root causes of inequality. Through the development and scaled implementation of signature programs and strategic initiatives in the areas of education, justice, and ethics, we aim to address persistent disparities, level lingering and current inequalities, and equip, encourage, and empower the next generation of global citizens, thought leaders, social engineers, and innovative entrepreneurs. We believe the resilience and agency of empowered communities will enable the creation of a new American narrative.

## **JUDGE AW CENTER STAFF**

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# PROGRAM

## WELCOME & ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

## OPENING REMARKS

## AWARD CEREMONY

- Ms. Rochanne Douglas, Founder & Executive Director of Loving 2 Learn Childcare Center
- Reverend Dr. Alvin C. Hathaway, Union Baptist Church & President of Beloved Community Services, Inc.
- Ms. Laurie Moloney, Academic Language Therapy & President of The International Dyslexia Association (DCIDA)

## KEYNOTE ADDRESS

*Abolishing the Opportunity Gap:  
Advancing Equity and Excellence in  
Public Education*

## CLOSING & RECEPTION

**Mr. Kraig Long**

**Ms. Mikea Turner**

**Presented by:**

**Dr. Dana Williams**

**Ms. Elonna Jones &  
Mr. Ahmed Fadlalla**

**Ms. Rosalyn Tang**

**Dr. Alvin Thornton**

**Hon. Alexander Williams, Jr.**

# KEYNOTE SPEAKER



Dr. Alvin Thornton has been the chair of the Prince George's County Board of Education since his appointment in December of 2018. While serving as an elected member between 1992-1999, he led negotiations that resulted in the 1998 Federal Court consent decree ending mandatory busing and mandating the building of additional schools and the implementation of a targeted student development program. His former appointment to chair the State's Commission on Education Adequacy, Equity, and Excellence, a.k.a. the "*Thornton Commission*," became a model used to fund and hold accountable secondary public education in Maryland. He has played a pivotal role in enhancing democratic processes and institutions in the state and has tackled educational, political, cultural and economic issues affecting Prince George's County.

Previously, Dr. Thornton was a faculty member in the Political Science Department at Howard University for 37 years. Throughout his tenure, he held numerous prestigious titles, oversaw all of Howard University's academic affairs, coordinated dozens of programs, spearheaded countless initiatives. Dr. Thornton is the co-author of two books, numerous articles, and several book chapters dealing with public education and political behavior. In addition to his more traditional roles in the academic community, Dr. Thornton has been an avid community servant and activist since the mid-1970s.

Dr. Thornton was born in Roanoke, Alabama and received a B.A. degree from Morehouse College. He holds a Ph.D. from Howard University. He is married to Annette Thornton and they have two daughters and four grandchildren.

# MASTER OF CEREMONIES



If you start your mornings with WUSA9, the CBS affiliate in Washington D.C., then you've seen Mikea Turner in action. The Prince George's County native is an Emmy-nominated weekend morning anchor for Wake Up Washington and weekday morning reporter for Get Up DC. Ms. Turner couldn't be happier covering stories in and around Maryland. Her most memorable stories

include coverage of the historic opening of the National Museum of African American History and Culture, the 2017 Presidential Inauguration, the national school walkout and a heart-wrenching interview with the mother of a teenage girl who was killed at Great Mills High School.

Before Ms. Turner joined WUSA9 in January of 2016, she was a fill-in news anchor, producer and weather forecaster at WBOC-TV in Salisbury, MD.

Prior to WBOC-TV 16, Turner worked as a general assignment reporter and co-anchor at Prince George's Community Television (CTV), a cable news station in Largo, MD. While there, she launched a segment entitled, "Inspirational Moments with Mikea," that put the spotlight on Prince George's County residents making a difference in the community.

Mikea Turner attended Rutgers University, The State University of New Jersey New Brunswick, Piscataway, where she earned a Bachelor of Arts degree in Journalism and Media Studies and minored in Japanese. She is active with the ALS Association's regional chapter. She's also a member of the National Association of Black Journalists and the Rutgers Alumni/Mentoring Program. She enjoys mentoring youth, meeting new people, embarking on new adventures, trying new foods, traveling to new places and telling stories that matter most to people in the community.

# 2019 EDUCATION AWARD HONOREES



**Rochanne Douglas**  
Loving 2 Learn Childcare



**Rev. Dr. Alvin C.  
Hathaway, Sr.**  
Union Baptist Church



**Laurie Moloney**  
Decoding Dyslexia-DC

# Rochanne Douglas

Rochanne Douglas is the founder and Executive Director of Loving 2 Learn Child Care Center, a faith-based school located in Hyattsville, MD, serving children ages 8 weeks to 12 years-old. Established in 1995, Loving 2 Learn's mission is to teach children in a comprehensive, nurturing, and engaging manner; to inspire children to become life-long learners; and to love themselves, others, and God. The school excels at its mission by facilitating child-centered and teacher-directed learning experiences that allow all children to engage in the world around them. This integrated approach provides the foundation for spatial intelligence and holistic child development.

A native of Prince George's County, Ms. Douglas was born and raised in Takoma Park and attended PG County Schools where she showed an exceptional aptitude for learning, which has grown into a life-long love for education. Like many stories of resilient women in this country, Ms. Douglas' success as a practitioner and entrepreneur is born out of perseverance. Douglas was raised during the crack epidemic of the 1980s and survived a turbulent home environment. She was a teenage mother and dropped out of high school to tend to her daughter. Despite these hardships, Douglas was determined to thrive. In fact, Loving 2 Learn was born out of Douglas' deep commitment to the field of early childhood education; her desire to impact the lives of children and families in a meaningful way; and her personal story of life transformation. To date, the school has served hundreds of students throughout Maryland.

Rochanne Douglas is a seasoned entrepreneur who believes that all things are possible with faith, family, and hard work. She has an Associate of Applied Science degree in Early Childhood Education from Prince George's Community College (PGCC), and a Certificate of Mastery in Early Childhood Education. She has served on the Early Childhood Committee at PGCC where she mentored students, advocated for curriculum standards, and provided a training site for aspiring educators.



# Rev. Dr. Alvin C. Hathaway, Sr.

Rev. Dr. Alvin C. Hathaway, Sr. was called to Union Baptist Church as Assistant Pastor in 2004 and elected as the 10<sup>th</sup> Senior Pastor in 2007. Rev. Dr. Hathaway is decorated with a myriad of degrees and has earned two terminal degrees, a Ph.D. in Philosophy of Religion from The North Carolina College of Theology, and a Doctor of Ministry from the United Theological Seminary.

Rev. Dr. Hathaway graduated from Baltimore City College High School. He studied Philosophical Theology at what was then Coppin State College, and was the first President of its Philosophical Theology Club. He is the recipient of several fellowships, including the National Civic League, the Pfromzheimer Fellow and Maryland Historical Society, and the Lord Baltimore Fellows. He is a member of the Academy of Homiletics and the Society of Biblical Literature, and was inducted into the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers at Morehouse College on April 12, 2012.

In addition, Rev. Dr. Hathaway serves as a member of the Board of Directors for the University of Maryland Medical Center, The Family League, the Ecumenical Institute, Urban Associates New Market Tax Credits, Harbor BankShares New Market Tax Credits, Greenline Ventures New Market Tax Credits, Douglas Memorial Development Corporation, The Greater Baltimore Committee, and the Downtown Partnership of Baltimore and Family League. He is the President & CEO of Union Baptist Church School, Inc. and Beloved Community Services Corporation. Furthermore, Rev. Dr. Hathaway is a contributing author to *Providing Mental Health Services to Youth Where They Are* (2002), and has published in the International Journal of Mental Health Promotion.

A native Baltimorean and son of Union Baptist Church, he is truly a man of God. Rev. Dr. Hathaway's wife, Kathleen Brice, is a retired employee of The Department of Defense, and they are the proud parents of three outstanding children.

# Laurie Moloney

Laurie Moloney is an Academic Language Therapist, President of the DC Capital Area Branch of the International Dyslexia Association (DCIDA), and Co-Leader of Decoding Dyslexia-DC. After receiving a Bachelor of Arts degree in English from the University of Delaware and working in the private sector as a writer, Ms. Moloney began her language therapy training in 1989 at the Tri-Services/National Institute of Dyslexia. She later continued this course of study at the Atlantic Seaboard Dyslexia Education Center (ASDEC) in Rockville, MD. She studied under the tutelage of the late Dr. Betty Levinson, Claire Nissenbaum, and Sandra Dillon.

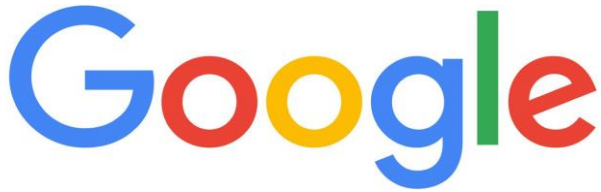
Ms. Moloney was a member of the ASDEC Board of Directors from 2002 to 2009, and currently teaches in the ASDEC's middle and high school study skills and writing program. She provides workshops for parents and in-service teacher training for local schools and organizations. She also provides a free, intensive decoding and fluency summer camp for children of low socioeconomic status.

Ms. Moloney currently maintains a private practice, serving students of all ages and learning abilities, ranging from mildly to severely learning impaired. Her areas of expertise include:

- Teaching students to read, write, and spell fluently and critically;
- Teaching students how to properly take notes from textbooks, literature, and lectures;
- Growing student vocabularies through the study of Latin and Greek morphemes;
- Teaching students to manage time and school materials effectively;
- Increasing memorization through novel memory strategies;
- Encouraging students to become self-advocates.

Ms. Moloney is motivated by the belief that literacy is a fundamental human and civil right unfairly denied to millions of Americans for a myriad of unacceptable reasons. She has partnered with The Judge AW Center to promote literacy through the Beloved Community Literacy Project.

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