

Press Release

United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana
Roger A.G. Sharpe, Clerk

The Federal Court Family Celebrates Black History Month with

The Struggles that Made Us: The Journeys of African American Leaders from Personal Failure to Triumph

Friday, February 18, 2022, at 2:00 PM

(January 14, 2022): The United States District Court for the Southern District of Indiana is pleased to announce Jimmie McMillian, Senior Corporate Counsel and Chief Diversity Officer for the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, NTT IndyCar Series, and IMS Productions, as the speaker at its 23rd annual Black History Month event. This year's hour-long program, *The Struggles that Made Us: The Journeys of African American Leaders from Personal Failure to Triumph*, will be held virtually on **Friday, February 18, 2022, at 2:00 PM**.

Mr. McMillian's remarks will highlight African American leaders, specifically lawyers, judges, and politicians, who encountered failure on their path to success. He will discuss how their ability to overcome losses ultimately made them stronger and better leaders. Mr. McMillian will provide inspiring examples highlighting African Americans who chose not to give up on their passion and dreams, despite seemingly insurmountable obstacles, and who ultimately achieved greatness. His remarks will inspire participants to use their failures as building blocks to establish successful careers in the law. Local jazz trio SOULful Expressions will treat the audience to a few musical selections to begin, and conclude, the program.

Mr. McMillian is a nationally recognized voice for diversity in the legal profession and increased opportunities for minority attorneys. As Chief Diversity Officer for Penske Entertainment, which includes the Indianapolis Motor Speedway, NTT IndyCar Series, and IMS Productions, he leads Penske's ongoing Race for Equality & Change initiative. He is a former partner at Barnes & Thornburgh, where he served in the litigation department. Mr. McMillian was named to the 2018 list of Most Influential Black Lawyers by *Savoy Magazine*, was a 2013 recipient of the Maynard K. Hine Medal for service to the IUPUI campus, and received the National Bar Association's Presidential Award in 2007. He is a graduate of the Indiana University Robert H. McKinney School of Law.

As in past years, the 2022 program is co-sponsored by the United States District Court, Bankruptcy Court, Probation Office, United States Attorney's Office, Federal Community Defenders, and the United States Marshals Service for the Southern District of Indiana. One hour of Continuing Legal Education credit has been approved.

The event is free and open to the public, but **pre-registration is required**. Pre-registration is for attendance via Zoom. If it is possible to gather in-person, registered attendees will be notified of those details and may choose to switch their attendance to in-person. Please email insd_cle@insd.uscourts.gov to reserve a space. Only those individuals who pre-register for the program will receive the Zoom link.