

2004 LSU Law Commencement Program

LSU Law

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LSU LAW



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Commencement

LOUISIANA STATE UNIVERSITY

PAUL M. HEBERT LAW CENTER

PROGRAM

10:30 a.m., May 27, 2004
Maravich Assembly Center
Louisiana State University

Processional

The Class of 2004

The Star Spangled Banner

Ms. Lorna Segall

Invocation

Raymond Thompson Fischer
Senior Class President

Presiding

John J. Costonis
Chancellor, Paul M. Hebert Law Center

Recognition of the Class of 1954

The Honorable Harold Brouillette
Judge, Division B. 12th Judicial District Court (Retired)

Address

Ms. Donna Brazile
Chair, Democratic National Committee's Voting Rights Institute

Conferring of Degrees

Dr. Jack Andoine
Member and Past Chairman, LSU Board of Supervisors

President's Remarks

William L. Jenkins
LSU System

Recessional

COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER

Ms. Donna Brazile

Chair, Democratic National Committee's Voting Rights Institute

Donna Brazile, a senior fellow at the Academy of Leadership, University of Maryland, was recently appointed as national chair of the Voting Rights Institute, the Democratic Party's major initiative to promote and protect the right to vote. The Voting Rights Institute was created in response to the irregularities of the 2000 election and was headed initially by former Atlanta mayor Maynard Jackson. Brazile is also an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University.

Brazile served as the campaign manager for Al Gore's 2000 presidential campaign, making her the first African American woman ever to manage a presidential campaign. A veteran political organizer and campaign manager, Brazile is an at-large member of the Democratic National Committee and designed the Voter/Campaign Assessment Program for the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee—a program that has been crucial in boosting black turnout in key congressional districts. Brazile has served as chief of staff to Eleanor Holmes Norton, the District of Columbia's delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives, and as host/producer of *A View From the Hill* on Radio One News in Washington, D.C., and Baltimore, Maryland.

In 1981, Brazile served as National Student Coordinator for the Martin Luther King, Jr. Holiday Committee. Later, she was appointed to serve as the National Mobilization Director for the 20th anniversary commemoration of the 1963 historic March on Washington. In 1985, she served as regional director for Hands Across America. She was the National Coordinator for Housing Now in 1989. Brazile was also founder and executive director of the National Political Congress of Black Women.

Brazile is the recipient of numerous awards and honors, including the prestigious Congressional Black Caucus Youth Award, and the National Women's Student Leadership Award. She was named one of *Ebony* magazine's *Outstanding Young Achievers*, and *Washingtonian* magazine named her one of the city's *100 Most Powerful Women*. A native of New Orleans, Louisiana, Brazile earned her undergraduate degree from Louisiana State University.

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Senior Judge, United States District Court, Western District of Louisiana

Judge Stagg obtained his B.A. from Louisiana State University in 1943, did post-graduate work at Cambridge University in 1946, and received his J.D. from the LSU Law School in 1949.

After law school graduation, Judge Stagg had a distinguished career in the private practice of law in Shreveport, Louisiana. He was elevated to the bench in 1974, when he became a United States District Court judge, following his appointment by President Richard Nixon and his confirmation by the United States Senate. Judge Stagg served as Chief Judge of the Western District of Louisiana from 1984-91. He is now a senior judge.

Judge Stagg is a veteran of World War II. During that conflict, he served as a Platoon leader, Company Commander, and Battalion Staff Officer of the 411th Infantry Regiment. He was also decorated with a Bronze Star and two Purple Hearts.

Prior to his appointment to the bench, Judge Stagg was active in a variety of civic, commercial, and political endeavors. During his time as a judge, he has served the judiciary in a number of capacities, including work on Judicial Conference committees and service as a member of the Board of Directors of the Federal Judges Association.

Earlier this year, the Louisiana Bar Foundation honored Judge Stagg with its 2003 Distinguished Jurist Award.

Judge Stagg was born in Shreveport, Louisiana. He is married to Margaret ("Miki") O'Brien Stagg. They have two children and three grandchildren.