

## The FCBA Celebrates **BLACK HISTORY MONTH**

February is Black History Month and is a time to commemorate and honor the contributions of Black leaders throughout US history and the world. As we take this month to reflect upon the accomplishments and achievements of our Black leaders and colleagues, we also recognize that there is more work to be done. Our bar, in particular, still has a long way to go.

As members and participants in the technology, media, and telecommunications (TMT) industry, we must be *intentional* in amplifying the cause for diversity *and* equity *and* inclusion--recognizing that these principles are siloed and not synonymous. It was this line of thinking that culminated in the FCBA launching

the Diversity Pipeline Program in the fall of 2020. What started off as just an idea (by our very own Celia Lewis and Rudy Brioché), grew into a successful program with goals to attract, develop and support diverse law students interested in pursuing legal careers in TMT law and policy.

As we continue efforts to develop the next generation of high caliber diverse attorneys and future members of the FCBA, we would like to take a moment to recognize and celebrate Black leaders and trailblazers in the TMT space who have paved the way for our current rising cohort of emerging diverse leaders.



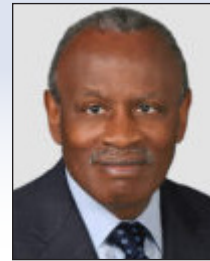
**Aloyisus Leon Higginbotham Jr.,  
FTC Commissioner, 1962-1964**

Hon. "Leon" Higginbotham Jr. was an American civil rights advocate, historian, presidential advisor and federal judge. At 34, he became the youngest person to be named a Commissioner at the FTC and the first African American to be a member at the commission level of a federal regulatory agency.



**Dr. Benjamin Hooks,  
FCC Commissioner, 1972**

Hon. Benjamin Hooks was a civil rights leader, Baptist minister, lawyer and was executive director of the NAACP. He was the first African American FCC Commissioner. As commissioner, he focused on minority media ownership and minority employment in the broadcast industry.



**Tyrone Brown, FCC Commissioner,  
1977-1981**

Hon. Tyron Brown is an attorney, civil rights advocate and former broadcasting executive. He was the second Black Commissioner to serve the FCC. He is a former chair of the Washington Lawyers Committee for Civil Rights Under Law, and a director of the Minority Media and Telecommunications Council.



**Andrew Barrett,  
FCC Commissioner, 1989-1996**

Hon. Andrew Barrett was an attorney, former teacher and served as an FCC Commissioner.



**William Kennard, FCC Chairman,  
1997-2001**

Hon. William Kennard is currently the chairman of AT&T's board of directors and also served as FCC Chairman. During his tenure as Chairman, he focused on bridging the digital divide which cultivated the FCC's e-rate program.



**Mozelle Willmont Thompson,  
FTC Commissioner, 1997-2004**

Hon. Mozelle Willmont Thompson is an attorney and the second African American to serve as Commissioner with the FTC. During his tenure at the Federal Trade Commission, he served as a delegate to the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development and chaired its Committee on Consumer Policy.

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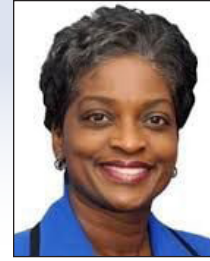
**Michael Powell, FCC Commissioner, 1997-2001; FCC Chairman, 2001-2005**

Hon. Michael Powell is currently the President of the NCTA – The Internet & Television Association. He served as an FCC Commissioner and Chairman. During his tenure with the FCC, he led the charge to open up markets in VoIP, Wi-Fi and Broadband as the world shifted into the Digital Age.



**Pamela LeDeyce Jones Harbour, FTC Commissioner, 2003-2009**

Hon. Pamela LeDeyce Jones Harbour is an attorney and formerly served as commissioner to the FTC. During her tenure, she focused on consumer data privacy.



**Mignon Clyburn, FCC Commissioner, 2009- 2018; Acting FCC Chairman, 2013**

Hon. Mignon Clyburn, a longtime champion of consumers and defender of public interests, was the first African American woman to serve as an FCC Commissioner and the first woman to serve as the FCC Chairman during her tenure as Acting Chairman. During her tenure at the FCC, she focused on enhancing accessibility in communications promoting strong competition across all communications platforms.



**Geoffrey Starks, FCC Commissioner, 2019-Present**

Hon. Geoffrey Starks currently serves as an FCC Commissioner. He advocates for Internet equality, diversity in employment and media ownership and for millions of Americans who can't afford Internet at home.



**Larry Irving, The Irving Information Group**

Larry Irving is currently the President and CEO of the Irving Information Group. Prior to starting his business, he was head of the National Telecommunications Infrastructure Administration (NTIA).



**Robert Branson, MMTC**

Robert ("Bob") Branson is currently the CEO and Chairman of the Multicultural Council of Media, Telecoms, and Internet (MMTC). He is an attorney and was the first African American President of our beloved FCBA.

*Thanks to the FCBA's Diversity Committee for preparing this content. Please visit <https://www.fcba.org/about/diversitycommittee/> for more updates.*