

COURT NEWS

The New Castle County Courthouse renamed the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center

The New Castle County Courthouse has been renamed the Leonard L. Williams Justice Center effective immediately. On Friday, July 22, 2016, Delaware Supreme Court Justice Collins J. Seitz Jr. welcomed Gov. Jack A. Markell to the courthouse where he addressed Delaware civil rights leaders, members of the legal community, elected officials, family members and the community as they joined in a ceremony to honor the late Leonard L. Williams (1934 – 2013). Governor Markell led the ceremony by recognizing Judge Williams' role as a pioneer in the civil rights movement in Delaware. Among other achievements, Judge Williams was the fifth African-American admitted to the Delaware Bar when he joined in 1959 and served as a law partner to Louis L. Redding, Delaware's first black lawyer. Redding was also a part of the legal team that argued the landmark *Brown v. Board of Education* case at the U.S. Supreme Court that ended the segregation of public schools across the country in 1954.

Judge Williams became the state's second African-American judge, in 1966, and served on the bench of the Municipal Court in Wilmington for 32 years before that court was merged with the Court of Common Pleas.

Other speakers at the ceremony included State Rep. Charles Potter Jr., Wilmington Mayor Dennis P. Williams, retired Superior Court Judge Charles H. Toliver IV, New Castle County Councilman Jea Street, former Wilmington City Councilman Samuel L. Guy, Esq., and Dena H. Williams, the daughter of Judge Williams, who spoke on behalf of the family.

For more information see: <http://news.delaware.gov/2015/12/11/governor-announces-new-castle-county-courthouse-naming/>