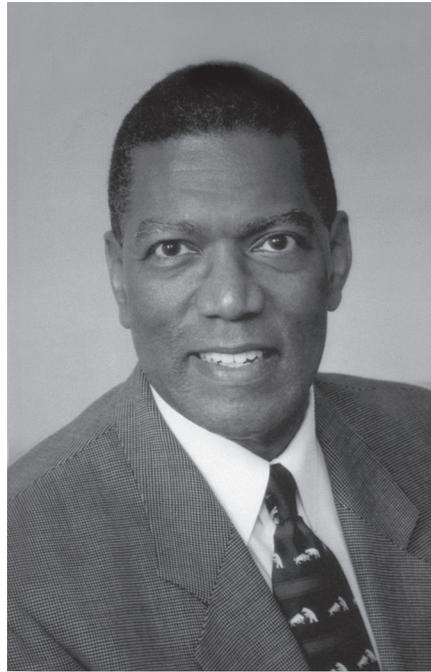


**Horace D. Taft Alumni Medal
and
Citation of Merit
2004 Recipient**



Wesley S. Williams, Jr. '59

Fluent in eight languages, well versed in the legal rhetoric of your profession, you communicate the universal truths and humanitarian values steeped in spiritual allegiance to your church, through which your devotion to civic responsibility is manifest. Charged by your school to “minister to others,” you lead by example, mentoring successive generations as a Sunday school teacher and trustee of family and child services, receiving of that noble institute’s Stoddard Award for “sustained exemplary community service.” An honorary knight of the most venerable order of St. John of Jerusalem, you are a titan in your battle to serve the underdog, and well you know that struggle as a cancer survivor who chairs the National Prostate Cancer Coalition with the same energy and sense of purpose that sustained you at Taft as a cum laude scholar, varsity athlete, and leader in the glee club and choir. You returned as a board member during the defining decade of the Seventies, and your keen mind helped launch your school into the era of coeducation and prosperity. A magna cum laude graduate of Harvard College, you plumbed the depths of your intellectual curiosity at Columbia, the Fletcher School of Diplomacy, and Harvard Law School, yet it is the honorary degree bestowed upon you by Virginia Union University that speaks most to your sterling character and charitable instincts that are the hallmark of your performance as a 30-year partner at Covington and Burling and co-chair of the Lockhart companies. The first African-American to serve both as legal counsel to the United States Senate and president of the Harvard Law School association, you are color-blind in your vision, accepting all but favoring those in whom you seek to ignite the spark of the human spirit. Wesley Williams, you have done much and done it well. You have never shied from hard work, the grist of your alma mater’s mill, and have always deflected personal glory. A captain of industry, guardian of the kind, firm molder, and champion of the community, your life’s journey has been as impassioned as it has been transformational, and you have been unerring in your mission to cherish the bold words of Mr. Taft’s motto: *Non Ut Sibi Ministretur Sed Ut Ministret*. It is with the greatest admiration and gratitude that today we confer upon you Taft’s highest honor, the Alumni Citation of Merit.