

Featured Graduate - Honorable Louis Stokes

Congratulations to former Ohio Congressman, the Honorable **Louis Stokes**, Class of 1953. Congressman Stokes received the Federal Bar Association Northern District of Ohio's first Pillar of Justice Award at the chapter's State of the Court Luncheon held at the Marriott Hotel in downtown Cleveland on September 14. The award was given to Stokes who "substantially contributed to the advancement of justice."



Carter Strang, class of 1984, Chapter President-Elect, introduced Louis Stokes by noting his rise from the Outwaite Public Housing Projects to the highest echelons of power in Congress, and his long and distinguished career as an attorney

Louis Stokes was born in Cleveland in 1925. He served in the U.S. Army during WWII, returned to his hometown in 1946, graduated from Case Western Reserve University in 1949 and graduated from our law school in 1953. In the early years of his career he distinguished himself as counsel to the United Freedom Movement and the lead attorney in two cases brought before the United States Supreme Court, *Terry v. Ohio* (1968), the landmark "stop and frisk" case, and *Lucas v. Rhodes*, the anti-gerrymandering lawsuit brought by the NAACP that resulted in the creation of Ohio's 21st Congressional District (today the 11th Congressional District). In 1968 Louis Stokes became the first African American elected to the U.S. Congress from Ohio. During his 30 years representing the citizens of the 11th Congressional District, he held numerous prestigious appointments, including membership on the House Appropriations Committee, chair of the House Appropriations Subcommittee on Veterans Affairs, chair of the Congressional Black Caucus and the second-ranking Democrat of the Subcommittee on Labor, Health, Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, chair of the House Select Committee on Assassinations, the House Intelligence Committee, the House Ethics Committee and was as a member of the House Iran Contra Panel. He retired in 1998 and is presently Senior Counsel in the Washington, DC, office of Squire Sanders & Dempsey, where his practice focuses on legislative counseling in the domestic and international public and private sectors.