

2017 Distinguished Alumnus

The Honorable Charles R. Scarlett, JD '52

Retired Los Angeles Superior Court Judge



Before attending Washington University School of Law, the Honorable Charles R. Scarlett served in the South Pacific with the United States Marine Corps during World War II. As a Century Club Fellow for more than 20 years, he was a long and loyal supporter of the School of Law before his death in early 2017.

Shortly after completing his JD, Scarlett married and moved to San Francisco, California, with Ed McSweeney, AB '50, JD '52.

Together they opened the firm McSweeney and Scarlett. Scarlett later moved with his wife, Charmaine, to Los Angeles to found the firm Broady, Scarlett and Broady. When Governor Edmund G. Brown, Jr. appointed Scarlett to the bench in 1980, the firm became Ivie and McNeill, and later Ivie, McNeill & Wyatt, APLC. One of the largest minority-owned law firms at the time of its founding, Ivie, McNeill & Wyatt has produced several judges.

As a Los Angeles Superior Court Judge, Scarlett presided over juvenile delinquency cases, predominately in Inglewood, California, until he retired in 1994. After retirement, he sat by assignment at various courts in Los Angeles County until 2015, when he was 91 years old.

A pillar of the Los Angeles community, Scarlett received awards from the state of California, the city and county of Los Angeles, and the city of Inglewood, as well as a resolution from Senator Diane Watson and a tribute by the Honorable Julian Dixon that was placed in the House of Representatives' Congressional Record. He also served on the board of the Los Angeles County Bar Association and other legal organizations.

Scarlett earned his bachelor's degree from Howard University in 1949. He and Charmaine were married for 64 years. The couple had four children and five grandchildren.