

**eliminating racism
empowering women**

ywca

metropolitan detroit

2006 Keepers of the Flame Honorees

Honorable Claudia House Morcom - Individual

A native Detroit and YWCA Lucy Thurman Branch Alumna, Judge Morcom worked throughout her legal career to establish gender and racial equality in all facets of society.

After receiving her J.D. from WSU, Judge Morcom worked as a public housing aid for the City of Detroit and as a partner in Detroit's first integrated law firm. She then moved to Mississippi to become the Regional Director for the National Lawyers Guild. There she and others instituted a massive voter registration drive.

Upon returning to Detroit, she served as the founding director of Neighborhood Legal Services where she implemented a program for providing legal services for the indigent. Later, after serving as an administrative law judge for the Michigan Department of Labor, she was appointed in 1983 as the first African-American woman to the Wayne County Circuit Court, where she served until her retirement in 1998.

While her list of professional accomplishments and recognitions are too long to list here, Judge Morcom's recent activities are noteworthy.

On March 13, 2006, Judge Morcom testified in New York City on the U.S. violations of the Human Rights Treaty obligations against the detainees in Abu Ghaib, Guantanamo, Iraq and Afghanistan, and the victims of Hurricane Katrina under the Treaty Against Torture.

On July 18 & 19, 2006, Judge Morcom testified along with 65 other non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Geneva Switzerland, to the U.N. Human Rights Committee on the U.S. Violations of Human Rights under the International Covenant for Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and commented on the U.S. Tardy report, and its evasive response to the NGO's charges. She further reported on the Human Rights Violations in the Case of Indigenous People, including the 'Cuban 5', Leonard Peltier and Mumia Abu Jamal and the victims of Hurricane Katrina.



General Motors Corporation - Corporate

General Motors has a long history of being a responsible corporate citizen by giving back to the communities in which it operates and lives. As a stakeholder in the future of Michigan and Detroit, GM's core values and focused involvement in the areas of affirmative action, workplace diversity, children's education and women's economic empowerment embraces the YWCA Mission.

In addition, GM took a moral stand to partner with community, educational and other organizations in opposition of the fall ballot initiative to amend Michigan's Constitution to immediately ban Affirmative Action programs in Michigan.

