

## **BIOGRAPHICAL SKETCH**

**of**

### **Judge Karlos F. Finley**

Judge Karlos Finley is a Partner at the law firm of Boteler Finley & Wolfe, P.C. and he serves as a part-time Judge with the City of Mobile, Alabama. His family's roots in the city date back to the 1860's when his great grandmother relocated to Mobile from neighboring Clark County. His grandfather, Dr. James A. Franklin, Sr., MD (Franklin Primary Health Center, Inc.), a member of the 1914 graduating class of The University of Michigan Medical School moved to Mobile and began his medical practice here in 1917. On May 5, 2015 Judge Finley was invested by the Mobile City Council as a Municipal Court Judge for the City of Mobile. Judge Finley's parents were both educators. His mother, a history teacher and graduate of Clark, Atlanta University and his father an assistant principal who started his collegiate career at The Mobile Branch of Alabama State Teachers' College of Montgomery (Now Bishop State Community College). His father continued his education and attained his Degree in Pharmacology from Xavier University of New Orleans. He returned to Mobile and opened the first African American chain of drug stores (Finley's Drug Stores) in the State of Alabama. His parents, along with other progressive thinkers, led the Civil Rights movement of the late 1960's and early 1970's in Mobile with the goal of bringing about a more unified community and equality for all of the city's citizens. Their efforts helped to send the first African American State Representatives from Mobile County to the Alabama State House in 1972. Judge Finley attended Most Pure Heart of Mary Catholic School (est. 1901) as a child until his family moved to Michigan in the mid 1970's. He returned home to Mobile and Graduated from John L. Leflore High School. Upon graduation, he enlisted in the United States Coast Guard. He was decorated with the Meritorious Unit Commendation Medal for relief efforts during several Gulf Coast Hurricanes and the Good Conduct Medal, then Honorably discharged. After beginning his collegiate academic career at Bishop State Community College, Judge Finley earned his Bachelors of Science Degree from the University of Mobile, Cum Laude and his Juris Doctorate from Miles School of Law in Fairfield, AL, where he was chosen as class valedictorian. He has served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Mobile County District Attorney's Office and is now in Private Practice with the law firm of Boteler Finley & Wolfe, while serving as a City of Mobile Municipal Court Judge. He is the Southern District Representative for the Alabama Lawyers Association and a past President of the Vernon Z. Crawford, Bay Area Bar Association. He is a member of the Mobile and Alabama State Bar Associations; and was chosen to participate and served as President of the 2008 Class of Leadership Mobile and is a member of the 2012 Class of Leadership Alabama. He serves as President of the Board of Directors for the Friends of the African American Heritage Trail, is Vice-President of the Paul W. Brock, Mobile Inns of Court, and a board member of the Boys and Girls Clubs of South Alabama, and is the Chairman of the Annual Youth of the Year Award Luncheon. He serves on the Board of Directors for the Dearborn YMCA, the Dauphin Island Sea Lab, the Mobile Bar Foundation and is a member of the 100 Black Men of Greater Mobile, Inc. and Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc.