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DEDICATION

JUSTICE THURGOOD MARSHALL

"He did what he could with what he had."

So said Justice Thurgood Marshall when asked how he would like to be remembered. Born in 1908, Thurgood Marshall rose from the depths of a racist society to occupy a seat on the highest court in the land. The first African-American justice on the Supreme Court, Thurgood Marshall was a zealous spokesman for the disenfranchised and the destitute, the penniless and the powerless.

Thurgood Marshall rose to national prominence when he argued before the Supreme Court for the dismantling of segregated education in *Brown v. Board of Education*. Always an ardent supporter of the oppressed, Justice Marshall dedicated his life to the achievement of human rights for all, and embodied the true meaning of "civil libertarian." Throughout his illustrious twenty-four years on the Supreme Court, Justice Marshall was best known not for his majority opinions, but for his powerful dissents. As the "Great Dissenter," he was not averse to express moral indignation when others failed to speak out.

Throughout his distinguished career, Justice Marshall never overlooked the principle that laws serve humanity. Justice Marshall noted that the essence of the Constitution is that "people are people."

People are people -- strike them, and they will cry; cut them, and they will bleed; starve them, and they will wither away and die. But treat them with respect and decency, give them equal access to the levers of power, attend to their aspirations and grievances, and they will flourish and grow and . . . join together to form a more perfect union.

Justice Thurgood Marshall never abandoned his defense of individual rights, minorities, and the underprivileged. It is for this, his struggle for the enhancement of civil and human rights, that he will always be remembered, and it is for this that he will sorely be missed.

