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CAC@10:

A Decade of Progress, A Charge for the Future

Wednesday, September 26, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.

Mayer Brown • 1999 K Street NW • Washington, D.C. 20006

Honoree Biographies

Shirley Higuchi, Esq. | @HiguchiJD Chair of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation

Shirley Ann Higuchi, Esq., Chair of the Heart Mountain Wyoming Foundation (HMWF), is the daughter of former incarcerated, Dr. William I. Higuchi and the late Setsuko Saito Higuchi. Her American born parents were children when they were incarcerated at Heart Mountain during WWII. Shirley's pursuit of law stemmed from her feelings of discomfort toward how the U.S. judicial system treated her parents. It was not until her mother was on her deathbed in 2005 that Shirley would inspire to take on her mother's dream of "having something built there." She was elected Chair of the Board in 2009 and her proudest moment was unveiling the Foundation's world-class Interpretive Center in August, 2011 alongside journalist Tom Brokaw, the late Senator Daniel K. Inouye, Secretary Norman Mineta and Senator Alan K. Simpson.



In 2014, Shirley was profiled in the documentary, "The Legacy of Heart Mountain" a film that emphasized: "The more who know, hopefully, will rise to defend future attacks on civil liberties and personal freedom." The film won four Emmy Awards, the Radio Television Digital News Association Unity Award, and two Edward R. Murrow Awards.

Shirley, an Advisory Board member of the National Consortium on Racial and Ethnic Fairness in the Courts, recently spoke on the dangers of for-profit detention centers at the Consortium's recent annual conference in Minneapolis, MN. Under her leadership, she led HMWF in the creation of the Japanese American Confinement Sites Consortium which brought together more than 60 representatives from organizations interested in the incarceration including the 10 major WWII confinement sites that incarcerated over 120,000 individuals of Japanese descent. Furthermore, Shirley is completing a book on the history of the incarceration through the lens of several dynamic characters whose lives passed through Heart Mountain spanning pre-WWII to the present day. The book will be published by the University of Wisconsin Press with an expected release in the fall of 2019.

In addition to her work with Heart Mountain, Shirley currently leads the legal advocacy office of the American Psychological Association. Active in the District of Columbia Bar, Shirley served two elected terms on the Board of Governors from 1994 to 2000, served as Chair of the Bar's Nominations Committee in 2001, and was elected President of the Bar for 2003. In 2008, Shirley was appointed to the Judicial Tenure and Disabilities Commission for a 6-year term where she was responsible for reviewing misconduct, evaluating reappointments, and conducting fitness reviews of the District's judges.

In 2014, Shirley was appointed to the Federal Law Enforcement Nominating Commission by Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton (D-DC).



Loretta Lynch | @AGLynch 83rd Attorney General of the United States (2015-2017)

One of the most highly accomplished public figures in America today, Former Attorney General Loretta Lynch has been a leading progressive voice during her 30+ year highly distinguished career.

She is the first female African American Attorney General of the United States, appointed by President Barack Obama in 2015. She also served as the head of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York twice, under both President Clinton and President Obama. Described by President Obama as "the only lawyer in America who battles mobsters, drug lords and terrorists, and still has the reputation for being a charming 'people person,'" she has been instrumental in shaping the direction of the nation on a number of tough issues. She improved the relationship between local law enforcement and the communities they serve, and she has taken bold stances on criminal justice reform.

Lynch has spent years in the trenches rising through the ranks as a prosecutor, aggressively fighting terrorism, financial fraud and cybercrime -- all while vigorously defending civil and human rights.

While leading the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of New York, she became known for the high-profile civil rights conviction of two Brooklyn police officers who brutally assaulted Haitian immigrant Abner Louima.

While in private practice, Lynch served as a volunteer legal advisor for the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda, established to prosecute those responsible for human rights violations in the 1994 genocide in that nation.

Born in Greensboro, NC, the daughter of a school librarian and fourth generation Baptist minister, Lynch was also inspired by stories about her grandfather, a sharecropper in the 1930s, who helped members of his community who had no recourse under the Jim Crow system.

Brittany Packnett | @MsPackyetti Co-Founder of Campaign Zero

Brittany Packnett is an award-winning national leader in social justice. Cited by President Barack Obama as a leader whose "voice is going to be making a difference for years to come," Brittany is an unapologetic educator, organizer, writer, and speaker.

Known as @MsPackyetti on social media, Brittany has become a sought-after voice in the work of social change and empowerment.

A former teacher, policy expert, and non-profit executive director, Brittany has committed her life and career to justice. She currently plays many roles, all focused on freedom.

Brittany serves as Teach For America's Vice President of National Community Alliances, where she leads partnerships and civil rights work with communities of color. Beyond Teach For America, Brittany was a Ferguson protestor and continues in activism as, among other things, co-founder of Campaign Zero, a policy platform to end police violence. She is a contributor to the Crooked Media network, most notably contributing to the weekly news



roundup on Pod Save The People which earned the team two 2018 Webby Awards for Best News Podcast. Brittany is a Video Columnist for Mic News, and writes for many major publications.

Recently, Brittany launched Love + Power, a hub created to inspire, empower, and outfit everyday people to seismically shift society.

Brittany was an appointed member of the Ferguson Commission and President Obama's Task Force on 21st Century Policing. Today, she continues to advocate for urgent systemic change at critical decision making tables and through national and international media. From New Zealand to London, across the United States, and at the White House, Brittany has traveled extensively to impart lessons of movement building, effective social impact, liberatory leadership, and empowerment for women and girls-especially those of color. Her popular TEDx talk, "It's about time to value Women of Color in Leadership" exemplifies the passionate calls to action and personal storytelling she shares with audiences.

She has graced the cover of Essence Magazine, been named one of TIME Magazine's 12 New Faces of Black Leadership, and honored at the 2018 BET Awards as "one of the fiercest activists of our time." Brittany has been named to Marie Claire's New Guard, LinkedIn's Next Wave, received the Peter Jennings Award for Civic Leadership, and shares the number 3 spot on Politico's 3016 50 Most Influential list. She has been honored by Emily's List, The Women's Choice Awards, the NAACP, Ebony Magazine, Public Allies, and Washington University, among others.

Brittany is an alum of Washington University in St. Louis, American University in Washington, and is a current Aspen Institute Education fellow. She is a proud Advisory Board Member of Rise To Run, an organization committed to recruiting grassroots, diverse, progressive women to run for office, and Erase The Hate, NBCUniversal's Emmy-Winning initiative to rid the world of discrimination.

Ultimately, Brittany is a proud Black woman who believes that freedom is within our grasp- as long as we unleash love, and build our power, because "power at its best is love implementing the demands of justice." (MLK)

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