



Hon. James A. Wynn, Jr., L'79

ALL-UNIVERSITY ALUMNI MERIT AWARD

The Honorable James A. Wynn, Jr., was presented the All-University Alumni Merit Award at a separate ceremony. Judge Wynn serves on the North Carolina Court of Appeals. He has received many honors, including the North Carolina Academy of Trial Lawyers Award in 1995 as the Appellate Judge of the Year and the 1996 MLK Award from the Baptist Convention of North Carolina. He was one of 20 judges and scientists around the nation recently invited to participate in the Einstein Institute's "Working Conversation on Genetics in the Courtroom for the 21st Century" and is chair-elect of the Appellate Judges' Conference of the American Bar Association. Judge Wynn began his career as a lawyer in the U.S. Navy Judge Advocate General's Corps, earning the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Naval Reserve Medal. He is a captain in the U.S. Naval Reserve. Judge Wynn previously served as an assistant appellate defender for the State of North Carolina, as an associate justice on the North Carolina Supreme Court, and as a private practitioner. Rev. Robert A. Wild, S.J., President of Marquette University, presented Judge Wynn the All-University Alumni Merit Award on April 24, 2004.

The following are excerpts from Judge Wynn's remarks in accepting the award:

Thank you, Father Wild and the Marquette University family, for honoring me with this award tonight. I have been privileged to serve as a judge for 14 years in North Carolina. Judges constantly face the choice of doing that which is right or that which is politically correct or expedient. I have sought to follow my instinct of doing what is right rather than politically correct. It amazes me that the people of North Carolina continue to elect me! But even now I am a candidate for our supreme court because I believe our citizens do not really want political judges—they want judges who are fair and impartial and who will follow the law rather than make the law. They want judges with moral courage. I draw moral strength from my days at Marquette Law School with former Dean Robert Boden, and then from the progressive leadership of Dean Howard Eisenberg, and now with the enormous potential of our new Dean Joseph Kearney. I am also proud to have my classmate, John Rothstein, here tonight to help me celebrate this honor.

Moral courage is particularly meaningful to me this year—the 50th anniversary of the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision. As an African-American, I am proud of the men and women who stood up during times when they faced great obstacles. And I am especially proud of the judges that Jack Bass called "Unlikely Heroes," who chose to stand up for the right thing even though they faced social ostracism in their community. They persevered by believing in the greater man. I, too, believe we need to develop greater understandings with people around the world; we need to be more global in our thoughts. We must develop stronger connective global relationships with each other and respect minorities and the underprivileged. It is, after all, how we treat "the least of these" that we are ultimately judged. •



Dean Joseph D. Kearney, Judge James A. Wynn, Jr., and Rev. Robert A. Wild, S.J., at the All-University Alumni Awards.

Law School Reunions 2005

Get out your calendars and palm pilots to make plans to attend your reunion! We want to help you remember those long-ago law school days, rekindle friendships, share memories, and talk about all that's been going on in your life since you left the Marquette campus.

————— *If you graduated in a year that ends in a 0 or a 5,* —————
this is your year to celebrate!

Class of 1955: May 21 and 22, 2005

Classes of '60, '65, '70, '75, '80, '85, '90, '95, and '00: June 3 and 4, 2005.
(Each class will have its own separate reunion dinner during the weekend.)

If you are interested in serving on the reunion committee for your class, please contact Christine Wilczynski-Vogel at (414) 288-3167 or christine.wv@marquette.edu. We are always looking for more help.