

CURTIS J. MARTIN II: Future is Bright for Precedent-Setting Attorney



Brian D. Poe, Esq.

Brian D. Poe, Esq. is managing partner of Brian Poe & Associates, Attorneys, PC and director of a national legal search firm. He can be reached at 404.880.3318 or via e-mail at brian@thesigningattorney.net or brian@esquire-connect.com.

Prior to joining Miller & Martin, PC, Curtis J. Martin II, became the first partner of color at another majority law firm in Atlanta, advancing to partnership 1.5 years ahead of the normal track. The Miller & Martin move gave Martin a broader platform for his clients, but also gave Miller & Martin a big boost for its Atlanta office's profile.

In January 2011, Martin was inaugurated president of Gate City Bar Association, the oldest African-American bar association in Georgia. In his inaugural address, he unveiled an ambitious calendar of events and objectives, none more impressive than his pledge that GCBA would award more student scholarships than ever before in 2011. As he left office in December of 2011, Martin proudly announced at GCBA's annual Hall of Fame dinner that GCBA had awarded more than \$20,000 in scholarships — its best year to date — and completed more than 60 substantive programs, all of which were designed to advance the legal profession and serve the greater community-at-large.

A diverse lawyer in every sense, Martin was raised on his family's Forest, Va., farmland; counts "The Autobiography of Malcolm X," Paul Robeson's "Here I Stand" — and "The Autobiography of Benjamin Franklin" among his favorite books; is an accomplished musician and jazz enthusiast; and has participated in the Running of the Bulls in Pamplona, Spain, on three occasions.

1. What influenced you to become a lawyer?

My parents and extended family planted positive seeds early in my life. Seeds of faith, discipline, work ethic, good manners, service to others, respect, fortitude and persistence. I believe that each of these traits, and others, have led me to a career in the law.

2. Your experience and public profile warrant consideration for various opportunities. With that said, what attracted you to private practice at Miller & Martin, and what is your role there?

Miller & Martin is a full-service law firm with approximately 200 attorneys. The firm also has a strong commitment to increasing diversity within the profession and nurturing the growth of diverse attorneys. I provide business litigation and



labor & employment law expertise and services for my clients ranging from start-up businesses to *FORTUNE* 100 companies. My clients rely on me to wear a number of attorney hats including as counselor, advocate, advisor and, most of all, problem solver. My greatest pleasure is the opportunity to partner with a client to understand the scope of their business and look for ways to help them grow their business and achieve the success that they desire.

3. What do you hope was the legacy of your Gate City Bar Association presidency?

The objective during my presidency was a simple and earnest desire to serve, and give back to the organization and its members that have shaped my life both personally and professionally. In that regard, it was important to me that every interaction, program, event [and] speaking engagement offered a positive and meaningful impact to the lives of those who came in contact with the organization.

4. What does the future hold for Curtis Martin?

My wife, Mary, has been wonderfully supportive of my career and has done a fantastic job maintaining a loving and stable environment for our two children. So, ahead of everything else, it is important for me to be as good of a parent as my mom and dad were to me and my sister. I will also continue to look for ways to serve and give back to others. I hope my story resonates with many of today's young men and women. I was born in a modest home without much material wealth and was never the fastest, strongest or most gifted. But through faith, diligence, and hard work, I've been fortunate to realize many of my dreams while helping others. **AT**