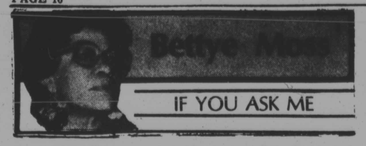

Top 100 list

The top 100 black business list published annually by **BLACK Enterprise Magazine** appears in the June 1985 issue out last week.

Top Baltimore businesses on the list: — G and M Oil Co., ranked No. 7 in the nation with 1984 sales over $56 million. This petroleum products firm) headed by Rudolph Gustus, was 15th last year).

Other Baltimore firms, their rank, chief executive officer and 1984 sales record are:

No. 20, Community Foods, Henry Edwards, $29 million; No. 39, Jackson Oil Co., Will D. Jackson, $22 million; No. 45, Parks Sausage, Raymond V. Haysbert, $201/2 million.

On the list of the top 35 savings and loan associations are, two Baltimore thrifts. Advance Federal Savings and Loans, ranks No. 10, W. O. Bryson Jr., with assets of over $30 million ($30,836,000). Ideal Savings and Loan, No. 32, E. Gaines Lansey, over $6 million, ($6,582,000).

Also featured in the special edition, a six-page article on Advance Federal entitled, "Advance Proceeds With Caution "friendly reliable service and conservative loan porfolio keep Baltimore's Advance Federal on a straight and steady course," says the article.

On the Q-E 2

"Delightful," "wonderful," "out of this world," "relaxing." These are the words Baltimoreans used to describe their cruise aboard the luxury liner, Queen Elizabeth 2.

They docked in Baltimore Sunday, (May 12), after week—long trip which took them to the Caribbean, with stops in San Juan and St. Thomas. Their trip was arranged through Bea Nixon at Mondawmin Travel.

In the group were:

Walter and Helena Edmonds, Ivy Harris and daughter, Barbara; Clarence and Norma Maiden, Wilfred and Gwen Seaborne, Hiram and Bea Butler, Vernon and Pauline Williams, Samuel and Pauline Blackwell, Norman and Mattie Chapman, Howard and Iona Collins, Howard and Helen Patterson, and her brother and sister-in-law, Dr. Otis and Mrs. Lubie Michael, Asheville, N.C.

Also, Mesdames Irma Roy, Irma Dancy, Thelma Bell, Edith Fowlkes and Florence Ringgold. Also aboard, a group from Trinity Church.

For Sen. Blount

Over 1,400 persons turned out for the Monday evening (May 13) reception honoring out of our town's nicest and most respected public servants—State Senator Clarence W. Blount.

It was a reception to observe the statesman's 15 years of dedicated service and was sponsored by a committee of friends headed by Samuel T. Daniels, Allen Quill and Lenwood Ivey.

Marty-Resnick's Martin West was the scene of the affair—and what a beautiful one it was — everywhere you looked in the huge hall were lighted tables, laden with dishes of all descriptions—pretty to see and to taste. There were, for example, goodies labeled Greek, dishes, French, Italian, soul and Kosher — something to please everybody.

The Senator and his wife, Gordine, moved among the guests, thanking them for coming and being gracious hosts.

Who was there

Elected officials — black and white—were there— and it was like an old fashioned political rally—such greeting and shaking of hands.

Lt. Governor Joe Curran was there (Gov. Hughes was tied up with the savings and loan crisis). So were U.S. Senator Paul Sarbanes, and Congresspersons Parren J. Mitchell, Steny Hoyer and Barbara Mikulski and State Comptroller Louis Goldstein.

Top city leaders there: Mayor Schaefer, Council President Clarence (Du) Burns, States Attorney Kurt Schmoke, Police Commissioner Bishop Robinson; Circuit Court clerk, Saundra Banks, and a large group of city judges.

And, of course, Senator Blount's own 41st legislative representatives. Nathaniel T. Oaks, Margaret Murphy, Rev. Wendell Phillips. Other district legislators were out in large numbers, too. In the crowd, Del. Elijah Cummings, head of the Legislative Black Caucus. Also spotted Eastern Shore's Fred Malkus.

College heads

Prince George's County legislative leaders were out in full force including Sen. Decator Trotter and Del. Exum and former legislator Tommy Broadwater. Also in the crowd PG's Pete O'Malley, who has his hat in the ring for governor.

College presidents there: Morgan's Dr. Earl Richardson, U of Maryland president, Dr. John Toll; U of Md. Eastern Shore chancellor, Dr. William Hytche came from Princess Anne. From the UM downtown Baltimore campus, Dr. Louis Murdock.

Coppin State president, Dr. Calvin Burnett was there, too. So was Senator Blount's 5 in 5 Club president, Samuel Parham.

Committee co-chair Daniels called the event "highly successful" He estimated between $60 and $70 thousand was realized. He added, "We are pleased with the response. Senator Blount is deserving of this tribute.

Co-chair Quille called the turnout "fantastic." And it was.

So was the 122-page souvenir book distributed to guests.

In addition to paid advertising, tributes, there are letters from to state and city officials saluting the honorees, and a detailed account of Senator Blount's achievements.

The tribute

"Clarence Blount is a man who has been a success in two separate careers. In each of these, his record has been that of excellence and achievement as well as public concern and service to his community.

"In 1971, at the age of 49, while still pursuing his first career in academics, he launched his second career politics. Clarence Blount was elected to the Senate of Maryland, and for 15 years has served the people of the 41st district as their State Senator.

"With each of those 15 years, his responsibilities and his prestige has grown. He became an expert on budgetary and fiscal matters and he is now the Vice-Chairman of the Senate Budget & Taxation Committee, Chairman of its powerful budget subcommittee on Health, Education and Human Resources.

"He uses his influence in his position to protect State funds for Public Assistance, Education, Foster Care, Aid to Families with Dependent Children, programs for youth and the elderly, Health Care programs and the survival and enhancement of the Maryland's historically Black Colleges.

"Senator Blount also serves on the Senate Executive Nominations Committee, assuring that the Governor's appointments are proper ones, ones that will benefit his constituency. He is also a member of the Senate Rules Committee, the Task Force on Public Education, the Governor's Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease, and the Task Force to Study Transportation.

He is a member of the influential Senate Leadership as well as the Joint Fiscal Leadership and the Legislative Policy Committee.

Leadership

Because of his leadership and influence in the Senate, Clarence W. Blount has become the first Black Majority Leader in the history of the State of Maryland. He is the floor leader of the Democratic Democratic Party in the Maryland Senate, and has become a power in the Party itself. He serves on the Democratic National Committee from Maryland.

"For the past fifteen years, the voters of the 41st legislative district have invested in Clarence W. Blount, and the bottom line is: You have invested wisely! The value of your precious resources has soared, and it will continue to go up under the prudent and dedicated work of State Senator Clarence W. Blount."

This and that

The Sunday morning nationwide television church program from Rev. Robert Schuller's Crystal Cathedral in Garden Grove, Calif., featured Soprano Henrietta Davis. She's the same artist who performed when the Morgan State University choir appeared in concert at the Meyerhoff a week back. Rev. Schuller said of her "She's terrific."

Orchids to members of the Baptist Ministers' Wives and Ministers' Wives' Alliance of Baltimore and Vicinity.

Their 50th anniversary souvenir book is a beauty—attractive photos and congratulatory advertisements.

Mrs. Audrey Bell chaired the souvenir book committee. Wells did the printing. The 50th anniversary banquet was held Monday, May 6.

Mrs. Janet Blackmon is president. The organization says it got its inspiration from the Baptist Ministers Conference of which Dr. Alfred C.D. Vaughn is now president.

Mrs. Odell Payne and Mrs. Mary Harrington chaired the historic committee.

Try and get a copy of this informative journal and you'll have a good idea of the important things ministers' wives have been about in our community for half a century. Congrats to all of them."

Nationally known Tony Brown, the journalist and televison rights crusader in town a Monday ago to lunch with Social Security employees, stopped off at Five Mile House on Reisterstown Rd., where owner, Wesley Johnson, hosted a rap session with some of the sponsors. (Black Affairs Advisory Council head Frank Hunt and lunch chair, Mark Anderson among them.

There was lively discussion on current issues, black leaders, economic boycotts, and on the press — including dailies and weeklies here in Baltimore.

At one point, Mrs. Brown quipped, "Rather than talk about putting the Sun out of Business, why not talk about putting the AFRO in business."

At Bethel

As usual, Bethel AME Church was packed for Sunday Mother's Day service. The 11 a.m. speaker, Dr. Dolly D. Adams, wife of the presiding bishop, the Rt. Rev. John Hurst Adams.

She is nationally known in her own right as supervisor of the 2nd Episcopal District and is national president of Links, the prestigious women's organization.

She brought laughter from listeners when she opened her remarks by saying, "I know some of you came here today out of deference to your mother and you're saying, "My Lord, she brought me here and I've got to listen to a woman. That's all right, come back next week."

There were sighs, no laughter, when she predicted Bethel's pastor will be elected to the bishopric as was his father before him. (His dad, retired Bishop Harrison Bryant, and mother, Mrs. Edith Bryant, were in the audience).

Dr. Adams recalled: Fifteen years ago Bishop Bryant was our bishop. If you believe history repeats itself 12 years from now we may be in another Bishop Bryant's district. You don't seem very happy about that, but the truth is the light, and you might as well get ready for it . . ."

Love is...

She told the audience love is an art that has to be learned and requires, tolerance, respect, concern and concentration and the first step in loving others is to learn to love ourselves.

More Adams advice" You can be any kind of person you want to be according to God's will. Don't say everthing you think. Sometimes as we get older, we think we can say anything to anybody at any time. We should control our tongues and put our best self forward.

On don't likes: — You hear people say they don't like somebody. Nine times out of ten, they don't know the person . . . they'll say, "I don't know what it is, but I don't like 'em."

We must learn to love by learning to like ourselves, we must be conscious of our affection for other people. She called it those persons unlovable who talk about others. "I don't mean no harm, but," or "I didn't say it, but . . ." Learning to love means you won't be vindictive if we are to be our best selves.

Cuff notes: The Bethel Church regular Sunday 8 page program was augmented by a 12-page bulletin highlighting activities planned during this month of May — the church's 200th anniversary.

Next Sunday, Bethel pastor, Rev. Bryant marks his 10th year at the church. The church bulletin showed weekly collections (May 5) of $20,773.88.

WARM GREETING—Cong. Parren Mitchell and State Sen. Clarence Blount.

CHIT—CHAT—Rob Jacobs, superintendent Crownsville State Hospital and Dr. Ernest Colvin.

VIRGINIA SLIMS

You've come a long way, baby.

Menthol: 14mg "tar," 0.9 mg nicotine - Lights Menthol: 8 mg "tar," 0.6 mg nicotine av. per cigarette, FTC Report Feb '85

Warning: The Surgeon General Has Determined That Cigarette Smoking Is Dangerous to Your Health.

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Judge Robert B. Watts: an illustrious career

By Elizabeth M. Oliver

Running for reelection as a Baltimore City sitting judge is a crap shoot. Like throwing dice, you don't know how it will come out.

This is mainly why Judge Robert B. Watts, the highly respected Domestic Court jurist with 17 years experience behind him, prefers to retire as of July 1, 1985.

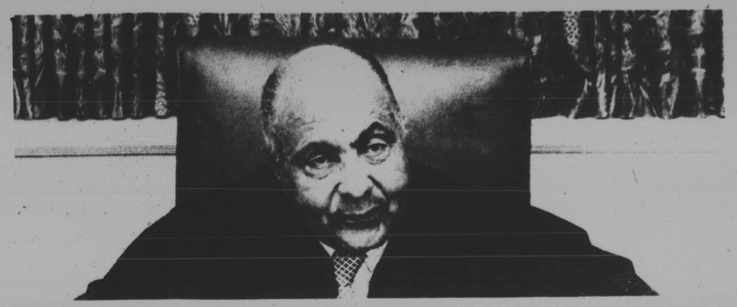
He say frankly, "I don't want to run again."

Rather than go through the agony of endless banquets, luncheons, public appearances, dealing with politicians, raising money, buying tickets, he will retire and go into private practice.

Explaining further about how the game of chance operates in running for reelection, Judge Watts reveals a sitting judge by law, can not campaign on issues, can not get up and make speeches at an affair, cannot even have a chance to debate his opponents.

"I simply do not want to go through it again," he states.

And, Judge Watts adds, "The raising money bit is the most distasteful part. Some people who make contributions come into court later and want you to be nice to them. Some of them expect you to do favors for them because they gave campaign contributions."



WITH 17 FRUITFUL YEARS on the bench, Judge Robert B. Watts, Domestic Court jurist, contemplates the past and the future and his swan song as a judge.

WHERE WILL HE GO?

Judge Watts told the AFRO many persons question his leaving a post which pays over $65,000 a year.

However, he discloses his retirement pay will be about $44,000 a year. In addition, when he goes into private practice he will make something.

He plans to join his law partner of many years ago, George L. Russell, in his firm "Russell and Thompson," at Charles and Lexington Streets.

And, he will also hold a position as Examiner/Master.

When interviewed by this reporter, the amiable, pleasant jurist leaned back comfortably in his spacious chambers on the 5th floor of the Courthouse East and in his calm and frank manner, told of his legal career that ends now on the Circuit Court bench.

HIS CAREER

Way back in 1949, he was with a group of young lawyers in offices at Aisquith and Gay Streets under the name of "Brown, Allen and Watts." He, the late Emerson Brown and Milton B. Allen (who is now a Circuit Court judge) enjoyed an excellent reputation as a black law firm.

By 1962, "Brown, Allen and Watts" was joined by William H. Murphy Sr., who later became a District Court judge and George L. Russell who later became a jurist. Their offices were in the 1500 block East Monument Street.

Others who came into the illustrious firm included Benjamin Brown who is presently the Baltimore City Solicitor; George Rosedom, who was the first black assistant states attorney; Charles Dorsey who now heads Legal Aid and was recently named president-elect of the Baltimore City Bar Association.

Then there was Harry Cole who became a Maryland state senator and is now on the Maryland Court of Appeals. Larry Gibson is a University of Maryland professor and Emerson Brown, became a Master/Examiner.

Judge Watts says he first entered the justice system when he became a magistrate at Northwestern District Police Station which was on Pennsylvania Avenue then and he substituted for the late Magistrate Linwood Koger and the late Magistrate E. Everett Lane.

In 1961 Judge Watts was the first of 11 on the Municipal Court Bench which is now the District Court.

He won the Primary in the 1962 race. However he was defeated in the General Election. In the field of 15 persons running for election, Watts name was last. He lost because the ballot said "Vote for eight."

He stated, "I was last on the list so I lost."

Next Gov. Millard Tawes appointed Judge Watts and he went on the Municipal Bench in November, 1963.

Up for election in 1964, Judge Watts won a term of 10 years on the Municipal Court.

In 1968, five years later, he was appointed by Gov. Spiro T. Agnew to the Supreme Bench which is now the Circuit Court of Baltimore City. He informs that he had to run in 1970 and won the Primary and the General Election for the 15-year post he now holds.

Along with Judge Watts from the April, 1955 Monument Street offices of the law firm, Brown, Allen and Watts, is Mrs. Rosalie Thomas who will move with him from secretary on the Circuit Court bench to secretary at "Russell and Thompson."

She will be joined there by Russell's secretary, Mrs. Margaret Spriggs who has been with him since 1949 at the first office at Aisquith and Gay Streets.

A COMPASSIONATE JUDGE

Judge Watts' leaving will be a great loss to the Domestic Court.

He has earned a reputation as a compassionate judge deeply involved with each case that has come before him. Praised for his wisdom and effort to fairly handle domestic cases, he has committed himself to trying to hold families together, husband, wife and children.

He reveals he has tried thousands of cases involving persons of all classes, races and persons from all walks of life. As an authority, he states there is no one group which suffers domestic problems.

"These problems cut across racial lines," he states. Adding, "They are highly emotional problems and most often end up in tears with the father, mother and the children all crying. It takes compassion, wisdom and great feeling to come up with a solution."

James Watts has spent many a season at the Maryland General Assembly trying to get a Family Court System into law so that it would include jurists, psychiatrists, social workers and staff people committed solely to solving family problems.

He states that he began in 1969 a crusade that failed but will continue to keep his pet project alive even though he is no longer on the bench.

"That I never got a Family Court System through is my greatest disappointment but I will keep trying and one day it will come about. I have faith," he vows.

WHAT IS WRONG TODAY

Faced with rising rates of family break-ups today, the problems of divorce and the result of all the evils of broken homes, Judge Watts is probably able more than anyone else on the bench to pinpoint what is wrong in today's society.

First he says is the inability of young men to keep the commitments of marriage.

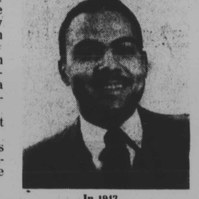
He states, "Young men and women too fail to consider the many serious things of marriage to make it work.

"They break up because of such nebulous concepts as "He (or she) does not meet my emotional needs."

"They break up because of the slightest thing and they want out without the thought that the broken home affects the children.

"Children are the victims of divorce and it is devastating. It adds up to many hurts in society. The message seems to have gotten across that marriage isn't important."

HIS STAFF includes Mrs. Rosalie Thomas, his secretary since 1955; Judge Robert B. Watts; Miss Cynthia Wood, law clerk and Milbourne Jackson, Court Room clerk.



In 1943...

In 1955...

Judge Harry Cole (left) congratulates Judge Watts at his swearing in as an associate Supreme Bench judge in 1968. Next to Judge Watts is Milton Allen and Frank A. DeCosta, Jr.

Judge Watts greets Mayor McKeldin in 1966 at a testimonial for Watts

Judge Watts says he often asks couples. "Why break up now? You haven't given marriage a chance."

Sometimes he is able to get couples back together and sometimes not, he adds.

The area of custody and right of visitation is also a painfilled one. He states that the custodial parent is sometimes unfair and forbids the other parent fair times to have the children. Here he accents, "They forget the child wants both mother and father."

Asked what has meaning to the problem of broken homes of black families, Judge Watts replied, "Men do not seem to have a sense of responsibility that they should have.

"When the breakup occurs, the man goes on about his own business and we have to yank them in and do everything we can do to get support out of them.

"There is a sentence of 18 months to three years imposed for non-support but we do not like to send the men to jail.

"There are many problems in that area. First there is no room in jail for the real criminals. Therefore, we give the man 30 to 60 days to come up with the support money or a job. If not, then it's jail.

"The problem with jail is that the man's mother, his grandmother or the girlfriend who broke up the marriage, one of them comes along and puts up the money to get him out of jail. Then we go through the whole cycle again, back to court, listening to promises and suffering the same highly emotional domestic tragedy."

HIS LIFE STORY

Judge Watts was born March 4, 1922 in Baltimore. He and his wife, Mrs. Jacquelyn J. Watts have five children.

Oldest son, Robert B., Jr., is a graduate of Morgan State University and a teacher of languages, Dundalk High School;

Next son, Rodney M., graduate of Morgan State University and a lawyer now working in California, and three daughters, Jacquelyn M, Genelle R., graduate of Towson State University and now enrolled in Law School, and Bobette T., graduate of Towson State University.

Judge Watts is a graduate of Douglass High School, Morgan State University, B.S., with honors; University of Maryland School of Law, LLB. He was student editor of Law Review.

PRIOR POSITIONS

Assistant Chief Enforcement Attorney, Office of Price Administration, 1951;
Substitute Police Magistrate, 1955;
Traffic Court Magistrate, 1956-1959;
Judge Municipal Court, 1961, first black full time Judge;
Judge Circuit Court for Baltimore City, 1968, elected to a Fifteen Year Term in 1970.

PARTNER

Former Law Firm of Brown, Allen, Watts, Russell & Murphy Former Member; Board of Trustees, State Colleges of Maryland, 1963 to 1971, was commended for conscientious and dedicated service for the benefit of higher education.

BOARD MEMBER

National Conference of Christians & Jews;
Harriett Lane-Johns Hopkins Hospital;
Dismas House;
Legal Aid Bureau, Inc.;
Family & Children's Society;
Prisoner's Aid Association of Md.;
Bon Secours Hospital;
Glenwood Life Drug Program;
Addict Referral & Counsel Center;
Child Support Council-State of Maryland;
President, North Charles General Hospital;
President, Lillie C. Jackson Museum;
Ex-Chairman, War Memorial Commission;
Governor's Commission on Domestic Relations Laws;
Chairman, Governor Hughes' Task Force on Prison Overcrowding.

AWARDS

Annual Brotherhood Award, Exodus Lodge B'Nai Brith, 1962;
Small Business Men's League, Inc. for Outstanding Political and Judicial Achievement, 1966;
Board of Managers, Y.M.C.A., for Outstanding Service, 1965;
N.A.A.C.P. — Distinguished Public Service Award, May 1962;
Award of Honor, Senior Class of Forest Park High School, October, 1968;
Man of Year, Baltimore Civic Democratic Club, January, 1969;
National Conference of Christian & Jews, Brotherhood Award for Distinguished Service in field of Human Relations, November, 1969;
Award for Legal & Judicial Excellence, African Methodist Episcopal Church, Washington, D.C., 1969;
Outstanding Community Service Award, MUND, 1971;
Outstanding Alumni Award, Douglass High School, 1971;
Honorary Doctor of Law Degree, Morgan State College, 1973;
Hall of Fame - Douglass High School, May 1973;
Honorary Degree, Doctor of Humane Letters, Towson State, May 1976.

MEMBER

Baltimore City Fair Association
Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity
Sigma Pi Phi Fraternity

PUBLICATIONS

Law Review Article, Maryland Law Review, 1948;
Law Review Article, William & Mary Law School, 1967.