

2019 American Bar Foundation Fellows Outstanding Service Award



Dennis W. Archer has spent the last four decades of his career serving the city of Detroit, his home state of Michigan, and the legal profession at large. A native of Michigan, Mr. Archer taught in Detroit Elementary schools for five years before receiving his Juris Doctorate degree from Detroit College of Law in 1970. In addition to practicing law in Detroit, he served as a Professor at both Detroit College of Law (1972-1978) and Wayne State University Law School (1984-1985).

In 1986, Mr. Archer was elected an Associate Justice on the Michigan State Supreme Court. He was elected mayor of Detroit in 1994, and during his two terms worked successfully to lower unemployment and spur over \$20.2 billion worth of new projects in city development. While mayor, he was named “Public Official of the Year” by *Governing* magazine and one of the “25 Most Dynamic Mayors in America” by *Newsweek* magazine.

Mr. Archer served as President of the American Bar Association from 2003 to 2004. He is also past President of the National Bar Association, Wolverine Bar Association, State Bar of Michigan, and the National League of Cities, and is a Life Fellow of the American Bar Foundation and Michigan State Bar Foundation. He has served on the Board of Directors for TopBuild, Alix Partners, MASCO Corporation, Johnson Controls Inc, and Compuware Corporation. His awards and acknowledgements include: the 2016 ABA Medal; listed in Best Lawyers in America; named “Most Respected Judge in Michigan” by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly* (1990); named among “100 Most Powerful Attorneys in the United States” by the *National Law Journal* (1985); and named among “100 Most Influential Black Americans” by *Ebony* magazine (1984).

Mr. Archer is married to Hon. Trudy DunCombe Archer, ret. They have two children, Dennis Wayne Archer, Jr. and Vincent DunCombe Archer, and have two grandsons. Mr. Archer is currently Chairman Emeritus of Dickinson Wright PLLC and Chairman & CEO of Dennis W. Archer PLLC.