

2022

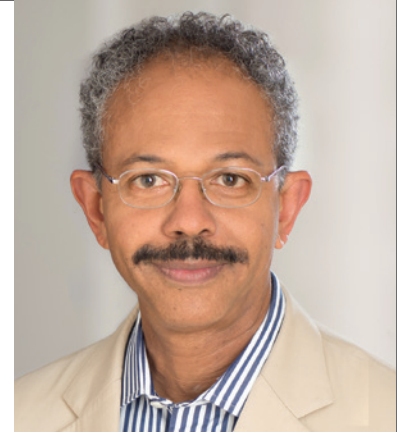
THE AMERICAN LAWYER

TRAILBLAZERS

NORTHEAST

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What was the genesis of the idea/path that has made you a trailblazer?

The change in society influenced by the civil rights lawyers and activists in the 1960's and 1970's, particularly in Tuskegee, Alabama and throughout the South. Lawyers brought cases to compel public officials and private industry executives to implement the promise of the United States Constitution and post-Reconstruction civil rights laws. The decisions of various federal courts provided much needed hope and enforcement that opened new vistas for many Americans.

What sort of change has resulted from the concept?

African Americans and other people of color, women and men, have been able to pursue new professional and personal opportunities, and make important contributions to all aspects of American society. Many African American children who grew up in the 1950's, 1960's and 1970's can realize the promise of America and achieve professional successes that were beyond the imagination of their parents.

What bearing will this have on the future?

America will be a stronger nation because a broader group of people will be able to make contributions to and participate in solving many of the most difficult issues facing the nation in areas such as, the environment, healthcare, transportation, law, government, policing, and criminal justice reform.