

HON. ROOSEVELT JEAN L'03

Roosevelt Jean, Esq. is the founder and owner of the Law Offices of Roosevelt Jean, LLC, servicing New York and New Jersey clients. He is a seasoned personal injury and employment discrimination attorney with a proven track record litigating hundreds of cases and obtaining favorable settlements for his clients. Roosevelt graduated from Syracuse University College of Law, where he began honing his litigation skills in the elite Moot Court Trial Advocacy Program- becoming a finalist in National Trial Competitions hosted by the American Bar Association (ABA), National Institute for Trial Advocacy (NITA) and American trial Lawyers Association (ATLA).

Recognizing his extensive trial experience, the New Jersey Supreme Court has on three occasions designated him a *Certified Civil Trial Attorney*, a distinction shared by approximately 2% of New Jersey lawyers.

The New Jersey Law Journal has also named Jean to its "New Leaders of the Bar" list. Formerly known as "40 Under 40," the list identifies a select group of distinguished young attorneys for their outstanding career achievements and contribution to the legal community through leadership in the bar. This honor followed his 2010, 2011, and 2013 designation by New Jersey Monthly Magazine as one of the New Jersey Super Lawyers® - "Rising Stars" in the field of general litigation. In 2022, he was selected to the New Jersey Super Lawyers list, an honor reserved for lawyers exhibiting excellence in practice. Only 5% of attorneys in New Jersey receive this distinction.

Over the course of his career, Jean has fought tenaciously for his clients who are victims of auto accidents, construction accidents, nursing home abuse, medical malpractice, wrongful death, slip-and-falls, animal attacks, and defective products. He has also excelled in handling employment and labor law cases pertaining to workplace discrimination, sexual harassment, whistleblower retaliation, wage and hour issues, and FMLA.

Formerly a civil litigation partner at the New York and New Jersey offices of a national defense firm, he now leverages his unique 17-year trial experience to advocate for plaintiffs in high exposure catastrophic personal injury, labor & employment, and civil rights litigation.

Jean has procured millions of dollars in compensation for his clients. Some of his representative results include a \$900,000 settlement in a catastrophic personal injury case, a \$600,000 settlement for an assault victim, and a \$400,000 recovery for a client suffering from back injuries.

He is qualified to practice in New Jersey and New York, and before the U.S. District Court for the Southern and Eastern Districts of New York, the U.S. District Court for the District of New Jersey, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 3rd Circuit.

On October 26, 2022, Roosevelt was sworn in as a judge for the Hackensack Municipal Court. While serving on the bench, he continues his litigation practice and actively mentors upcoming lawyers on how to navigate the legal field.

HEATHER M. PALMORE L'95

Heather M. Palmore, Esq. was born in Rockville Centre, Long Island, New York, and was raised in Amityville and attended Malverne Public Schools. She is a graduate of Cornell University where she was a member of the Cornell Women's Basketball team and was initiated into the Mu Upsilon chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc. At Cornell, she discovered her passion for advocacy when she was awarded the Elsie Van Buren Award, Cornell University's highest honor for speech and advocacy, and received that distinction for two consecutive years. She was also a member of Cornell University's award-winning Forensics Club, which participated throughout the country in the field of speech and debate. While earning a Bachelor of Science degree, with Honors, in Policy Analysis and Consumer Economics and Housing, she was also selected as a Ford-Mellon Foundation Scholar to Yale University, in which she studied under Dr. Jessie Geller, the reliability of child eyewitness testimony in legal proceedings. It was from these combined experiences, that she decided to pursue a career in law.

Immediately upon graduation from Cornell, Palmore enrolled in Syracuse University's College of Law. At Syracuse, in her third year of law school, she made history at the College of Law by being selected as the first African-American Teaching Assistant to teach first-year law students both writing and oral advocacy skills with her own law section. In 1995, Heather graduated from Syracuse University's College of Law with distinction. She was the Executive Director of the award-winning Moot Court program and lead the school to regional and national championships.

After graduation, Heather entered public service and was appointed as an Assistant to the District Attorney of Queens County, by the late Honorable Richard A. Brown. During this time, Palmore worked as an Assistant District Attorney, where she led the entire office in trials and convictions for two consecutive years. She worked on trials in the areas of homicide, sexual assault, narcotics, and other major crimes. During this time, she was featured as a panelist on Dateline NBC with respect to race and perceptions in the field of criminal law following the Amadou Diallo shooting in New York City.

In 2000, she joined the law firm of Conway, Farrell, Curtin & Kelly, P.C., as a Trial Attorney. In 2007, Heather was elected Partner, becoming the first African-American female elected Partner at the firm and becoming the only woman of color to be named partner in the firm's 60-year history. At Conway Farrell, Palmore was the "go-to" attorney on the firm's high exposure cases, including premises, wrongful death, construction/labor law, education law, and other related matters. During her tenure at Conway Farrell, Palmore tried over 50 cases to verdict, all resulting in the favor of her clients.

Palmore has also worked at Nationwide Insurance and CNA Insurance as a Senior Trial Attorney, where she continued to litigate high-exposure cases, on behalf of her clients. From 2017-2019, she served as Chair of the African American Employee Network, a national position for CNA Financial, a multi-billion

dollar, Fortune 500 company, based in Chicago, Illinois, where she specialized in high exposure premises, wrongful death, construction/labor law and other related practice areas. Palmore was most recently a Partner at Quintarios, Prieto, Wood and Boyer, a Miami, Florida-based law firm and the largest minority and women-owned law firm in the United States. Palmore has been a frequent presenter for CLE courses, conferences, universities, and the state and regional communities, at large.

In 2021, Palmore established the Palmore Law Group, P.C., a full-service law firm, with concentrations in personal injury, wrongful death, civil rights, employment, and labor/construction law. In addition, she was named Chief Trial Counsel to Napoli Shkolnick, PLLC, where she is responsible for the handling of cases litigated before the Courts throughout the country, as a collaborative partner.

Some of Palmore's most recent accomplishments include leading the legal team for Travis Williams, owner of HBCU All-Stars. Through her work and that of attorney Benjamin L. Crump, they negotiated a multi-million dollar contract with CBS to bring to viewers the first-ever HBCU All-Star Game, to air on CBS, during the Final Four © weekend in March of 2022, in New Orleans. This historic endeavor will, for the first time, showcase, nationally, the best student athletes in a cross-section of HBCU talent. Palmore also represented Jennifer McLeggan, the Valley Stream, New York, single mother, who was harassed by her neighbors and were ultimately convicted of their crimes.

In July of 2020, at the height of the social justice reforms that took place throughout the country, Palmore was a founding Board member of Advancement of Blacks in Sports, where she was an Executive Board member and served as General Counsel for the organization. Advancement of Blacks in Sports serves Black student-athletes and coaches in every sport, and in collegiate athletics, from Division I, II, and III, as well as professional athletes. Members of Advancement of Blacks in sports include Craig Robinson, Mike Anderson, Dave Leito, Felicia Hall Allen, and Julius Erving, among other coaches and athletes, whose mission is to address racial, social, and economic inequity in sports.

In February 2022, Palmore will be featured in CORE Magazine, as one of the 100 Most Influential Blacks in America. CORE was founded by Bo Porter, former Manager of the Houston Astros.

Some of Palmore's honors included the recipient of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Drum Major Award, Soror of the Year Award, awarded by the Pan-Hellenic Council for her work in both her chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha and in the community, North Atlantic Region Citizen of the Year for Alpha Kappa Alpha, The Network Journal Magazine's Top 40 Under Forty Achievement Award for her impact in the business community, Long Island Business News named her one of the Top 50 Influential Women in Business for her contributions to the Long Island regional business community, Chair of the Suffolk County Board of Ethics, where she was appointed unanimously by the Suffolk County Legislature and an induction into the Malverne Hall of Fame for her outstanding athleticism.

Heather has served in leadership positions. She is a member of the Wake Forest University Parents' Council, where she and other members have raised and maintained a \$1.3 billion dollar endowment for the university. She previously served as President of Jack and Jill of America, Suffolk County Chapter, for four years, served as President of the Ivy Foundation for Theta Iota Omega Chapter of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc and served on the Executive Board.

Palmore's additional honors include appointment by the New York State Board of Regents to the Roosevelt Board of Education as a Trustee, a member of the Energeia Partnership-Academy for Regional Stewardship at Molloy College and serving as a Trustee at Molloy College.

Heather is a mother to one son, Miles Palmore Middleton, who is a 2021 graduate of Wake Forest University, where he was Student Body President. He is currently serving in the Infantry branch as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army, 10th Mountain Division, Fort Drum, New York.

ZEBEDAYO MASONGO L'23

Zebedayo Masongo, known as Z, is a December graduate of the class of 2023 at Syracuse Law. Before coming to law school, Z earned a Master's in Physiology and a Bachelor's in Biology and held the positions of Lab Analyst and Laboratory Technician.

Z is the founder of Malindi Press, formerly known as The Grnwood (pronounced: Greenwood). This media company looks to consolidate Black culture from around the world. He believes that, as Black people, we need a platform that displays us in many facets. Malindi Press will be a platform that prioritizes quality content and disseminating information that properly represents the array of things we are pursuing and achieving here, in the United States, and abroad. The company's first international expansion will be to Kenya in the fall of 2023; then, he plans to expand to other parts of Africa and Europe by the end of 2024.

While studying at Syracuse Law, Z had the opportunity to compete and win multiple pitch competitions both on and off campus. During his Junior year, Z valiantly served as BLSA's Executive secretary. Subsequently, he represented Syracuse as the Sub-regional Chair of the Northeaster Black Law Students Association, where he planned and facilitated collaborative events and an academic retreat hosting multiple law schools in the Northeastern United States. Working with BLSA was one of the highlights of Z's experience at Syracuse. He continues to serve as a mentor and a source of guidance for current students at the College of Law.

ALDRICK CADE '23

Aldrick Cade, a senior studying psychology and Forensic Science at Syracuse University, was born and raised in Montgomery. Since his youth, he has been passionate about community service, advocacy, and building relationships. In the summer of 2018, Aldrick enlisted in the Alabama National Guard as a Culinary Specialist. In December 2022, he transferred to the New York National Guard, where he currently serves as a Military Intelligence Officer.

Before transitioning to SU, he spent two years at Marion Military Institute in Marion, Alabama, to complete the Early Commissioning Program (ECP). While at Marion, he served as squad leader, platoon leader, executive officer, and even company commander within the corps of cadets. On the ROTC side,

he served as the Operations Officer (S-3) for the Tiger Battalion. He led a team of five others who oversaw planning for the entire battalion. In addition to those roles, he was also involved in various organizations, including Fellowship of Christian Athletes (President), Law Enforcement Program, Honor Guard, Color Guard, Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society, Honor Council, and Service Leadership Club. Throughout his five years in the National Guard, Aldrick received two Army Achievement Medals, the National Defense Service Medal, Army Service Ribbon, the Tac Officer's Exemplary Leadership Award, and the Alabama Special Service Medal. His academic achievements include making the President's list twice, the Dean's List, and the Commandant's list.

Currently, as an Undergrad at Syracuse University, he serves in many roles, which include Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the Syracuse University Student Association, Peer Leader of First Year Seminar, Fundraising Chair of the Haitian American Student Association, University Senator, legislative member of the Black Student Union. Also, he sits on the board of directors for Student Legal Services. Aldrick was recently named an "Our Time Has Come Scholar" and is working with undergraduate pre-law students to create an Undergraduate Law Review where if it is approved, he will serve as Co-Editor in Chief.