



## Author Information

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### *Crusader for Justice*



**Peter J. Hammer** is a professor of law and director of the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights at Wayne State University Law School. He received his undergraduate training at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington, and completed a joint J.D/Ph.D. program in law and economics at the University of Michigan.



**Trevor W. Coleman** is a national award-winning journalist, who has been an editorial writer and columnist for the *Detroit Free Press*. He was chief speechwriter for former Michigan governor Jennifer M. Granholm and director of communications for the Michigan Department of Civil Rights. He is a graduate of The Ohio State University and father of two college students, Sydnie and Trevor II.

## About the Judge:

**Damon J. Keith** was born in Detroit, Michigan, on July 4, 1922. He is a graduate of West Virginia State College (B.A. 1943) and Howard University School of Law (J.D. 1949), where he was elected chief justice of the court of peers, and Wayne State University Law School (LL.M.1956). In 1967, President Lyndon Johnson appointed Keith to the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan, where he was elevated to the position of chief judge. He was appointed to the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in 1977 by President Jimmy Carter. As a member of the federal judiciary, Judge Keith has been a courageous defender of constitutional rights, giving real meaning to the promise of "equal justice under law." Judge Keith is the recipient of numerous awards, most notably, the NAACP's highest honor, the Spingarn Medal, and the Edward J. Devitt Distinguished Service to Justice Award, the highest honor that can be bestowed on a member of the federal judiciary.

