



The Family of the Late Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr. Teams up with Impact Church to Announce an Impact Gives Back Scholarship in His Honor

The late Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr. served as a Presiding Judge of the Fulton County Juvenile Court from 2013 until January 30, 2017. His untimely death left a huge void and his family, friends and Church searching for ways to carry forward his interest in and work with youth.

One of the terms frequently used to describe the late Judge Lovett is passionate. Attorney Seletha Butler, his wife, recalls her personal memories, “Willie was an accomplished man with many passions. His family, Impact Church, support of youth programs, and commitment to impressing upon children and youth the value of education were at the top of his list. A scholarship program involving those elements is a natural fit to carry forth the legacy of his life and work.”

As a high achiever throughout his education, Judge Lovett experienced its value in every aspect of his life. He was the valedictorian and president of his senior class at Alfred Ely Beach High School in his native Savannah, Georgia. He also understood the value of being well rounded. At Beach High School, he was a football player and member of both the National Honor Society and National Beta Club.

Moving on to college, he displayed the same level of diligence and commitment to his education graduating cum laude with Distinction from Yale University. At Yale, the aspiring attorney served as president of the African American Black Cultural Club and as a member of the 1985 Scroll and Key Society. It was also at Yale that Judge Lovett became a member of his beloved Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc. Later, he earned his Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School and his Master of Laws in Litigation from Emory Law School.

Beyond his education, Judge Lovett turned much of his focus to helping children and youth. Impact Church Chief Financial Officer Theodore Florence, recalls his late friend as 100 percent committed to his youth outreach, “Judge Lovett valued his position as Presiding Judge, it offered him a platform to support programs and services and to directly touch the lives of hundreds of youth. Impact is proud to serve as a partner in the Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr. Impact Gives Back Scholarship Program in his honor.”

Overview of the Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr. Impact Gives Back Scholarship (Lovett Scholarship)

The Lovett Scholarship is an award of \$3,000 per academic year for up to four years of undergraduate course work at a four-year private or public accredited college or university. The award is renewable each academic year for the recipients that maintain a satisfactory cumulative grade point average (GPA) as determined by the Scholarship Team. Recipients must also maintain full-time enrollment and must complete a minimum of twenty (20) hours of volunteer work through Impact Church.

Completed applications are due on February 1, 2018. Interviews of selected applicants will be conducted in March 2018. The award recipient(s) will be notified in mid-April and the scholarship(s) will be presented at Impact Church in June 2018. **For questions, contact Ayeola Johnson at bintajohn@aol.com.**

Financial contributions to the Lovett Scholarship can be made online at the following link
<https://impactdcd.ccbchurch.com/goto/forms/500/responses/new>.

ABOUT JUDGE WILLIE J. LOVETT, JR.

The Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr. Impact Gives Back Scholarship was established on January 30, 2017 to continue his legacy and commitment to making a difference in the lives of our youth. Judge Lovett was a pillar in the legal community, the Atlanta Metropolitan community, and his Impact Church community.

In 1985, Judge Lovett earned his Bachelor of Arts in Sociology, cum laude with Distinction from Yale University, and received the 1985 Roosevelt Thompson Prize for his commitment to public service. He served as the President of the African American Black Cultural Club, was a member of the 1985 Scroll and Key Society, played on the football team his freshman year, and pledged Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Inc., Zeta Chapter. In 1988, Judge Lovett earned his Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School, where he served as a Comments Editor on the HARVARD CIVIL RIGHTS-CIVIL LIBERTIES LAW REVIEW. In 1991, he earned his Master of Laws in Litigation from Emory Law School. Judge Lovett was admitted to practice in the United States Supreme Court, the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, the United States District Courts for the Northern and Middle Districts of Georgia, the Georgia Supreme Court, and the Georgia Court of Appeals.

Judge Lovett had a legal career spanning 25+ years. A long-time advocate for children and youth, he was appointed as the Presiding Judge of the Fulton County Juvenile Court in the Atlanta Judicial Circuit, Fulton County, Georgia in May of 2013. Children in his court often referred to him as the “bow tie Judge.”

Prior to becoming a Presiding Judge of the Fulton County Juvenile Court, Judge Lovett clerked for the Honorable Joseph W. Hatchett, former Chief Judge of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, served as an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Atlanta’s Law Department, and worked as an associate at Morris, Manning & Martin, LLP, Ford & Harrison, LLP, and Troutman Sanders, LLP. From 1999 to 2009, he served as the Deputy County Attorney for the Fulton County Office of the County Attorney. From 2009 through 2013, he served as the Director of the Fulton County Office of Child Attorney. Judge Lovett also served as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Atlanta’s John Marshall Law School from 2013 to 2015.

Judge Lovett served as a member of the Board of Directors for the National Association of Counsel for Children (NACC) and was a member of the Leadership Atlanta Class of 2016. Judge Lovett served as the 2009 President of the Gate City Bar Association. He also served as a member of the Gate City Bar Association Executive Board, Member at Large, and in 2015 served on the Judicial Section Board for the organization.

For the Gate City Bar Foundation, Inc., Judge Lovett was the Chairman of the Board of Directors in 2010, and voluntarily served as a mentor to young attorneys on the practice of law. Judge Lovett was a Member at Large for the Judicial Section (2015), and a Member of the Board of Directors for the Atlanta Bar Association (2009). In addition, in that same year, he was a Member of the Board of Directors for the Atlanta Volunteer Lawyers Foundation. Judge Lovett was the convention Co-Chair for the National Bar Associations 88th Annual Convention.

Judge Lovett served as Chair of the Board of Directors of Chattahoochee Hills Charter School from 2012-2015, and as the Vice Chair of the Board of Directors from 2010-2012.

At Impact Church, Judge Lovett served on the Leadership Team, the Finance Team, Men of Impact, the Count Team, as the leader of several Connection Groups, and provided his wisdom and support to Impact Gives Back. In 2013, he went on a mission trip to Haiti. He had a passion for horticulture, which he shared through planting for both Impact Church campuses.

Judge Lovett was married to Seletha R. Butler, for fourteen years. Mrs. Butler has a Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School, an M.B.A. (global focus) from Georgia Institute of Technology, and a B.S. (*summa cum laude*), Corporate Finance, from The University of Alabama. Prior to joining Georgia Institute of Technology as an Assistant Professor of Business Law and Ethics, Mrs. Butler spent fourteen years, collectively, with global law firms in Atlanta (DLA Piper LLP, Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP, and Hunton & Williams LLP) and Chicago (Alzheimer & Gray), and one of the nation’s largest commercial banking organizations. Mrs. Butler is the founder and adviser at *srButlerCo*. She also is an active member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated and on the Board of Trustees of MedShare International, Inc., where she serves as Secretary.

A native of Savannah, Georgia and graduate of Alfred Ely Beach High School, Judge Lovett had a passion for travel, golf, gardening, recycling, sports, and cooking. His professionalism, sharp legal mind, affable spirit, kind smile, sense of humor, and his ever-present willingness to accept and assist all who crossed his path were a testament to the exceptional human being he was, and why the Judge Willie J. Lovett, Jr. Impact Gives Back Scholarship was established to continue his legacy of goodwill towards all.

ABOUT IMPACT CHURCH

“Impact Church is a multicultural gathering of people who are committed to sharing the love of Christ with the world.” With two campuses in East Point Georgia, Impact is about the business of “doing church differently” in the greater Atlanta community, across the nation and the world. Impact on Sylvan is located at 2323 Sylvan Road and Impact on Main is located at 2792 East Point Street.

Impact Church persists in our God-given mandate to connect, pursue and build a community that smashes the status quo of what’s possible for and in our lives. We do church differently so that YOU can LIVE differently remarkably beyond anyone’s imagination of what’s possible.

There are four values that run the lens that Impact Church tries to see everything it does through. They are prayer, community, compassion, and honesty. These values keep the reasons why we started our church at the forefront of all we do. No matter what we do, we know these values will stand the test of time and continually guide us.

Inclusion, permission and growth define leadership at Impact. Each of these components helps to create the kind of diversity and balance we need to build and sustain remarkable teams.

Remarkable extends beyond our leadership and all adults to our children and youth. This extension happens only because we are radically intentional about nurturing a legacy for our next generations. From our Imcredibles to Impact Kidz to Maximum Impact, this community invests in holistic and vibrant ministry for your children.

In 2016, Impact Church earned the distinction of being named the 56th Fastest Growing Church in America by Outreach Magazine. Recently, based on statistics provided by the United Methodist Church General Council of Finance and Administration, Impact was also named as the 10th Fastest Growing United Methodist Church among the approximately 32,000 across the United States.