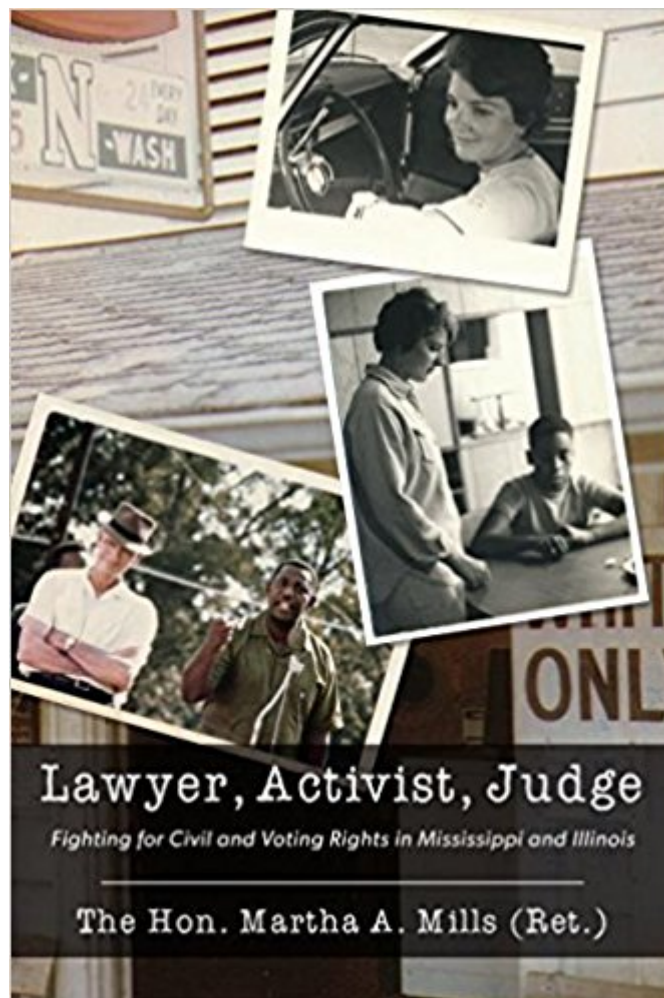


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Lawyer, Activist, Judge: Fighting For Civil And Voting Rights In Mississippi And Illinois



Synopsis

Lawyer, Activist, Judge: Fighting for Civil and Voting Rights in Mississippi and Illinois is the story of Martha A. Mills, who worked to bring justice to a place where injustice thrived. In this compelling and fascinating account, Mills describes her journey to Mississippi as a young civil rights lawyer in the late 1960s after joining the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights Under Law. She boldly challenged the racial status quo and racial barriers in the south, risking her personal safety in the process. Yet she looked racist judges, lawyers, lawmen, and Ku Kluxers in the eye—never backing down, in court or out. Mills's work as a civil rights activist continued through to her work as a judge in Cook County, Illinois.

Book Information

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Customer Reviews

Judge Martha Mills of Chicago is a renowned pioneering civil rights attorney. She was a trial lawyer for more than forty years. In 1995 she was appointed by the Illinois Supreme Court to serve as judge for the Circuit Court of Cook County. During her tenure she was primarily in the Juvenile Justice, Child Protection Division. Recalled in 2007, she supervised the Parentage and Child Support Court until December of 2012. Under her guidance, the court strengthened its operations piloting a restorative justice project, one of the first such programs in a family law court in this country. In addition, she has done a great deal of consulting, educating, and training in restorative justice, violence prevention and intervention, and conflict resolution for children and adults.

Martha A. Mills is a very distinguished trial attorney and judge. Early in her career she worked in

Mississippi and later Illinois as a civil rights attorney. She tangled with Grand Imperial Wizards, an Exalted Cyclops or two, good old boys on their worst behavior, and won some and lost some. She also directed a choir, was city attorney in Fayette, tried to explain “Sock it to me, baby!” to a racist judge, sweated the Mississippi bar exam, and took kids to swim in the pool at the Sun Sands Motel, prompting the locals to triple the dose of chlorine. This is a superb book, both for what it tells us about the past and what it tells us about the present. As Mills makes abundantly clear, the techniques used to disenfranchise black voters in Mississippi in the 1960s were alive and well in the 2017 Presidential election. I wrote a full review-essay of this book for 3 Quarks Daily, September 19, 2016.

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