October 5, 2005

The Portland Observer

Page B3

LAW & JUSTICE

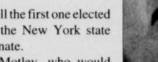
Civil Rights Leader, Judge Remembered

Advocate toppled segregation in court

(AP) — When she was 15, well the first one elected Constance Baker Motley was to the New York state turned away from a public beach Senate. because she was black. It was only then - even though her mother was have celebrated her 40th active in the NAACP - that the anniversary on the teenager really became interested bench next year, died in civil rights.

She went to law school and found heart failure. She was 84. herself fighting racism in landmark segregation cases including Brown v. Board of Education, the Central High School case in Arkansas and the case that let James Meredith enroll at the University of Missis- NAACP's Legal Defense and Edusippi.

self: She was the first black woman Marshall, then its chief counsel and appointed to the federal bench, as later a Supreme Court justice. In



Motley, who would Sept.28 of congestive

Motley won nine of 10 civil rights cases she argued before the Supreme Court.

She spent two decades with the cational Fund, started out there in Motley also broke barriers her- 1945 as a law clerk to Thurgood



Constance Baker Motley

v. Board of Education.

off resistance across the country and leading to some of the racial clashes of the 1960s.

In the early 1960s, she Meredith case as well as the suit that resulted in the enrollment of two black students at the University of Georgia.

America while touching in her 1992 book, "In My Place." But she would "suddenly threw a curve ball with so much skill and power that she would knock them off their chair."

Motley also argued the 1957 case personally argued the in Little Rock, Ark., that led President Eisenhower to call in federal troops to protect nine black students at Central High.

Also in the early 1960s, she successfully argued for 1,000 school children to be reinstated in Birmingham, Ala., after the local school board expelled them for demonstrating. She represented "Freedom Riders" who rode buses to test the Supreme Court's 1960 ruling prohibiting segregation in interstate transportation.



Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. chats with his wife Coretta (left) and civil rights champion Constance Baker Motley before the start of a Southern Christian Leadership Conference banquet on Aug. 9, 1965, in Birmingham, Ala.

1950, she prepared the draft com- all believed that our time had come ist Charlayne Hunter-Gault, wrote plaint for what would become Brown and that we had to go forward." The Supreme Court ruled in her In her autobiography, "Equal and her colleagues' favor in 1954 in Justice Under Law," Motley said a decision credited with toppling defeat never entered her mind. "We public school segregation in

9045 SW Barbur, Suite 109 Portland, OR 97219 (503)221-3050

STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES HOME OFFICES: BLOOMINGTON,



Unity Sought after Katrina

Millions More March Supported

AP) - Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan said the suffering of Hurricane Katrina victims has brought black Americans together.

Farrakhan said that just as Democrats and Republicans came together after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks; black Americans of all religions must join forces to help hurricane victims.

"Katrina is our reason," he said at a church last week, urging the said the upcoming rally will inhundreds of attendees to transform any anger into "constructive energy to channel the move-

ment."



Louis Farrakhan

clude a range of black organizations and religious groups.

Clifford Kelley, a former Chicago alderman who hosts a radio The movement is his Millions talk show, said those who support the Millions More Movement and Farrakhan do not need to be Muslim. "We should all be involved in about religion, it is about unity." Farrakhan has spent the last

Racial Imbalance on Death Row

Less value placed on minority victims

death row for killing whites than rors recommended death. for murdering people of any other race, despite there being more black and Hispanic murder victims, according to a new study.

The study in the Santa Clara Law Review tallied the races of California homicide victims in the 1990s.

It concluded suspects who metropolitan areas. murdered whites were almostfour times more likely to be sen- and who will die in California turns tenced to death than those who on arbitrary and unlawful factors killed Hispanics, and three times more likely to be sentenced to the murder victim or the location death than those who killed where the murder was commitblacks.

"To put it bluntly, there's ap- Clara university professor. parently different values being In 1987, the U.S. Supreme Court. placed on victims from differ- ruling in a Georgia case, said student racial and ethnic groups," ies like California's were not said Northeastern University grounds for reversing death criminal justice professor Glenn cases, unless racial bias could be Pierce, a co-author of the study. "That's what the pattern would dant. suggest." When it came to the race of the death row. It has executed 11 defendant, the study concluded people since reinstating the death race did not contribute signifi- penalty in 1977.

(AP)-More condemned men cantly to whether prosecutors and women are on California's sought the death penalty or ju-

> Instead, it was the race of the victim that was paramount.

Pierce said his conclusions mirrored studies in other states.

The study also noted that some counties, particularly rural ones, issued death sentences disproportionately to

"The decision of who will live such as the race and ethnicity of ted," said Ellen Kreitzberg, a Santa

More Movement, formerly the Million Man March, which will commemorate its 10th anniversary with a Saturday, Oct. 15 rally on the National Mall in Washington, this," Kelley said. "This is not D.C.

The rally will include women, unlike the 1995 Million Man several months touring cities to March, which drew thousands of encourage people to travel to the people to Washington. Farrakhan nation's capital for the march.

proven by an individual defen-

California has 645 inmates on

owner by spaying or neutering your pet.

