

Editor's note: This article on black lawyers in Chicago was originally published in the *Chicago Legal News* in 1896 and subsequently reprinted in the *Michigan Law Journal*. The author, James Bradwell, was the husband of Myra Bradwell and was considered to be quite progressive for his time. Some of the language contained in the article, while appropriate for the 1890s, may seem inappropriate today.

THE COLORED BAR OF CHICAGO.

JAMES B. BRADWELL.

Over thirty colored men and one colored woman have been regularly admitted to the Illinois bar, and are now practicing law in Chicago. Considering the fact that less than forty years ago a large majority of the race in this country to which these lawyers belong were slaves, and that several of the lawyers themselves had been slaves, the race prejudice they had to overcome and the difficulties they had to encounter, with no rich or influential friends to give them a helping hand, the record they have made at the bar is an honor to the colored race and well may their example be held up to the colored men and women of other cities as worthy of imitation. We doubt if any other city has as large a number of colored lawyers.

Many of these lawyers are not only graduates of Law Colleges but of Universities as well, and some of them have been teachers; many were pioneers in occupying positions which colored men had never before been allowed to hold.

We inserted no person's name in this article until after we had examined his or her license, or the roll of the supreme court, to show that he or she had been regularly admitted.

While preparing this article we addressed letters to Hon. Harvey B. Hurd, the senior professor of the law department of the Northwestern University; to Hon. Thomas A. Moran, the dean of the Chicago College of Law, and to Hon. Marshall D. Ewell, the dean of the Kent College of Law, representing the three law colleges of this city from which colored law students had graduated, asking their opinion of colored men as students and lawyers, and received replies which are given at the conclusion of this article.

We place the names of the colored lawyers of Chicago in this article in the order in which they were admitted to the bar, and Lloyd G. Wheeler's name, like Abou Ben Adhem's name, "leads all the rest."

1. Lloyd G. Wheeler,
2. Richard A. Dawson,
3. Ferdinand L. Barnett,
4. Louis Washington,
5. Edward H. Morris,
6. J. W. E. Thomas,
7. Maurice Baumann,
8. John G. Jones,
9. R. O. Lee,
10. George W. W. Lytle.
11. S. Laing Williams,
12. Franklin A. Denison,
13. Charles P. Walker,
14. Edward G. Alexander,
15. William H. Ward,
16. M. A. Mardis,
17. Albert G. Hubbard,
18. James H. Lewis,
19. J. Gray Lucas,
20. Hale Giddings Parker,
21. James E. White,
22. W. B. Akers,
23. Charles W. Strutchin,
24. R. M. Mitchell,
25. William G. Anderson.
26. Thomas L. Johnson.
27. Miss Ida Platt,
28. John L. Turner,
- 29.
- 30.
- 31.

15. Lewis W. Cummings,
16. W. W. Johnson,
17. S. A. T. Watkins,

32. Beauregard F. Moseley,
33. E. H. Wright.

Lloyd G. Wheeler, after an examination in the usual manner, having obtained a certificate of good moral character from County Judge Bradwell, was admitted to the Illinois bar April 20, 1869, and opened an office in Chicago at 69 Monroe street. He was the first colored man ever admitted to the Illinois bar. He led the way and made it easy for others of his race to follow in his footsteps. The *Legal News*, in welcoming him to the bar, said: "Mr. Wheeler is an intelligent and worthy gentleman, an honor to his race and no disgrace to the bar of Illinois. He is the first negro ever admitted to the bar in this State. We wish him success."

In 1870 Mr. Wheeler went to Arkansas and was county attorney of Pulaski county one term and presidential elector for Grant in 1872; served one year on the board of commissioners of Pulaski county, Arkansas. Mr. Wheeler married the niece of John Jones, now deceased, one of the most wealthy and respected of Chicago's colored citizens, who had been a slave, and by working over hours at tailoring, purchased his own freedom. Mr. Jones was appointed notary public by Governor [John M.] Palmer, and elected a member of the board of commissioners of Cook county. It was at his house in this city that John Brown was secreted when a reward was offered for his delivery. Mr. Jones died in 1879, wealthy, and, at the time of his death was carrying on a profitable business. Since the death of Mr. Jones, Mr. Wheeler has given his undivided attention to carrying on the business which Mr. Jones devoted to the best years of his life to building up. Had it not been for this business connection Mr. Wheeler would undoubtedly have been, to-day, one of the leading lawyers of the city, with an excellent clientage.

Richard A. Dawson, the son of a colored Methodist minister, graduated from the Law Department of the University of Chicago in June, 1870. He was admitted to the Illinois bar July 11, 1870. A certificate of good moral character was awarded to Mr. Dawson by the Supreme Court of this city, with a view to his admission, upon motion of B. W. Ellis, then and now of the Chicago bar, once a slaveholder in the State of Arkansas. Mr. Dawson served one term as State Senator of Arkansas. He was the second colored man ever admitted to the bar in Illinois.

Ferdinand L. Barnett, Jr., was born in Nashville, Tenn., in 1855. His father was a slave until reaching his majority when he applied his extra earnings to buy himself, an opportunity which was sometimes offered by accommodating masters. Later, with his family, he moved to Canada in order to educate his children. After a common school course in Windsor, his son, F. L. Barnett, came to Chicago and graduated from the West Division High School in 1874. He then taught school two years in the South. Returning to Chicago he took the regular course in the Union College of Law and graduated therefrom in 1878, and was admitted to the Illinois bar June 11th of that year.

The next two years were spent in literary work as editor of *The Conservator*, which paper he founded in 1878, with Dr. James E. Henderson, now of Springfield, Ill., and Abram T. Hall, now of Pittsburg, Pa. That journal is the second oldest paper published by colored people in the country, and is conceded to be among the most influential organs of the race. Since its first issue to the present Mr. Barnett has been connected with it as editor or proprietor.

In 1881 he began the active practice of law, and has been so engaged up to the present. For a number of years he was associated with S. Laing Williams, under the firm name of Barnett & Williams. He devoted himself principally to civil practice, and has a good paying clientage.

Mr. Barnett has been twice married. His first wife was Miss Mary H. Graham, the first colored person to graduate in the regular course of the University of Michigan. Her death from heart disease occurred in 1890. In June, 1895, he married Miss Ida B. Wells, whose crusade against the lynching evil is known the world over. Shocked by the awful barbarity of that species of outlawry, brought home to her by the lynching of three highly respected young colored men of Memphis, because of a neighborhood quarrel, Miss Wells started out to call the attention of the American people to the dangerous growth of this evil. Denied a hearing in America she went to England, and there from pulpit, platform and in the public press, her appeal was effectively made.

Mr. Barnett is a Republican in politics and was selected as the representative of his race to take charge of the special work in the Afro-American Bureau under the National Republican Campaign Committee at the Auditorium. Mr. Barnett is an able, active and efficient worker and has done much to advance the welfare of his race. His office is at 113 Adams St.

Louis Washington was born in Enon, Alabama. His complexion is no counterfeit. It is plain, genuine black. He was a slave until 1863, when, inspired by the love of freedom, not having heard of President Lincoln's proclamation freeing the slaves, but having been told there was a large army at Vicksburg which liberated all the slaves who came within its lines, he left his master's services unbidden, walked barefooted from Enon to Vicksburg, and there entered the service, as a cook, of the 72d regiment of Illinois Volunteers under Colonel Stockton, afterward commanded by Colonel Sexton, our ex-postmaster, and served with that regiment, sometimes as cook and sometimes with a musket in his hands, until the end of the war in 1865. After the war he alternated for a number of years between work and school. He would work and earn money, then spend it getting an education, and then work again.

In 1872, having made some progress in his studies with the little fortune of \$540 in the bank, he went to Wheaton College, where he remained for five years studying mathematics, Astronomy, Latin, Greek and German. The bank in which he deposited failed, and he lost \$285 of his money, which compelled him to forego the completion of the college course.

In 1876 he left college and taught school for one year in Missouri, and with the money saved in teaching he paid his way in the Union College of Law for two years. In June, 1879, he took the examination before the Appellate Court and was admitted to the Illinois bar June 18, 1879. His office is at 81 Clark street, where he has been for fourteen years. The money made in his practice he invested in Chicago real estate.

Compare his condition now, with the poor, barefooted runaway slave, thirsting for freedom.

Edward H. Morris was born a slave in Kentucky in 1859, of slave parents. He attended the common schools of Ohio and Illinois, and has lived in Chicago twenty-six years. Mr. Morris was admitted to the Illinois bar June 12, 1879, after an examination before the Appellate Court when it was held in what Judge Gary used to call Drake Tower. He was then so poor that he was unable to purchase a suit of clothes to make himself presentable; he kept on his long overcoat and remained during the examination with it buttoned up before, so as not to show the fractures which time and wear had made in his antique pants. Contrast the situation of this poor law student with that of the Mr. Morris of to-day!

Last year he received in cash for his professional services over ten thousand dollars, not including his salary as South Town Attorney. He is worth between forty and fifty thousand dollars in Chicago real estate; has a large law library of his own and a large well-selected miscellaneous library, in which such works as Shakespeare, Carlyle, Dickens, the poets and a good array of reference books find a place.

He was admitted to the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States October 15, 1885, and to the Wisconsin bar in September, 1881, and has considerable legal business to transact in that State. Mr. Morris has held a number of positions of trust and responsibility and has always performed his duties with ability and with the strictest integrity.

In 1892 he was attorney for the town of South Chicago. In 1895 he was assistant attorney for Cook county, and is now attorney for the town of South Chicago. Mr. Morris was elected a member of the Illinois legislature of 1891, and served with credit to himself and the race he represented. He has succeeded in building up a profitable practice; has the respect of the bench and bar, and is the leader of the colored bar of Chicago. His practice is largely among the white race.

Mr. Morris has always been ready to lend a helping hand to the struggling law students of his race. Among those who have studied in his office are Fred. L. McGhee of St. Paul, his brother, William R. Morris, of Minneapolis, F. A. Denison, of Chicago, and Paul Jones, of Kansas City, who are all now successful colored lawyers.

J. W. E. Thomas was elected and served in the Illinois House of Representatives, 1876-78, with credit to himself and satisfaction to his constituents. He made a useful member. He was admitted to the Illinois bar February 2, 1880. He is among the wealthiest colored men of the city of Chicago and made his fortune principally by signing bail bonds at the Harrison Street Police Station, and investing the proceeds in real estate.

No man doing business at the Harrison street station is better liked by the police department and those attending the station, than Mr. Thomas. Notwithstanding the character of his business and the length of time Mr. Thomas has been in it, he is regarded by all who know him as a man of honor and integrity. He has no equal in the business in which he is engaged in this city. He is a man of more than ordinary ability.

Maurice Baumann was admitted to the bar at Providence, R. I., January 1, 1877, and after practicing some years in that State removed to Chicago and was admitted to the Illinois bar on motion at Mt. Vernon, November 16, 1883. Mr. Baumann is a good English scholar, writes a fine hand and has a good paying business. His main office is at 134 Van Buren street. He has an evening office at 4765 Tracy avenue, Town of Lake.

John G. Jones was born in Ithaca, N. Y., in 1854, and is a large, strong and healthy-looking colored man. He was admitted to the Illinois bar March 25, 1884. Mr. Jones is one of the most fearless men we have at the bar, and is about the best known colored attorney here by reason of the frequent clashes he has had with the police department. Woe unto the man who steps on his toes, and thinks because he is a colored man he will not resent it. He is ever ready to defend his rights.

Mr. Jones has devoted a large portion of his time to criminal law, and has defended black

and white, for every crime in the calender from murder down, with uniform success. His office is at 191 Clark street. He stands upon the top round of the Masonic ladder of colored Masons, having taken the 33d and last degree in Masonry. He was at the session of the Supreme council of the 33d degree of the A. A. S. Rite for the Southern and Western Masonic Jurisdiction of the United States of America, held at the Grant Orient in Washington, D. C., on October 21, 1895, elected Most Puissant Sovereign Grand Commander, and re-elected in October, 1896.

Many claim that the colored Mystic Shriners have received their authority more directly from the fountain head in Arabia, than the white Mystic Shriners have, for Rofelt Pasha, an Arab, and Deputy from the Grand Council in Arabia, in Chicago, on June 1, 1893, conferred upon Mr. Jones the Mystic Shrine degree, and so far as our knowledge extends, he was the first colored man in the United States to receive this degree. Mr. Jones has a patent of authority from the Grand Council in Arabia, empowering him to institute temples and confer this degree upon colored Masons in this country.

He now holds the office of Imperial Grand Potentate of North and South America. He has already instituted thirty-six temples of the Mystic Shrine in the United States. In far away Arabia, a colored Mason is considered as respectable as a white mason.

In Ancient Craft Masonry there is nothing which prevents a free-born colored man from receiving any of the Masonic degrees. Race prejudice would very generally cause the colored candidate to be black-balled in a white lodge; notwithstanding this, however, at least three colored brothers have been raised to the Master's degree in white lodges in Illinois. A colored man has been elected Master of a lodge of white Masons in New Jersey.

R. O. Lee was born in 1862, went through the junior year in the university of South Carolina, and was admitted to the Illinois bar September 18, 1884. He has a clientage both white and colored. His office is at 77 Clark street.

George W. W. Lytle was admitted to the bar at Nashville, Tennessee, January 13, 1877, and coming to Chicago, was admitted to the bar of Illinois September 22, 1884. He is a good scholar, writes a neat hand, and transacts business like a gentleman. His office is in the McCormick building, 69 Dearborn street.

S. Laing Williams entered the University of Michigan with the class of 1881, graduated with that class and received the A. B. degree. In the fall of 1881 he was appointed as principal of the Tullabody Academy of Greensboro, Ala. After teaching at this institution for one year he was appointed as an examiner in the adjudicating department of the U. S. Pension Bureau at Washington, D. C. He held this position from August, 1882, until August, 1885, when he resigned and came to Chicago to practice law. He entered the law department of the Columbian University, Washington, D. C., in the fall of 1882, and was the first colored man that ever gained admission to that University. Much resistance and excitement were caused by his admission but he was permitted to stay and graduated with his class in 1885, winning the second of the three prizes offered in the prize contest for legal theses.

He afterward took the post graduate course in the same school, making three years of legal study. He was admitted to the bar of the District of Columbia on examination June 18, 1885, and admitted to the Illinois bar January 19, 1886. Mr. Williams is a fine student, and in scholarly ability has no superior among the colored lawyers of Chicago. He is the husband of Mrs. Fannie Barrier Williams, who is the first and only colored woman ever admitted to membership in the

Chicago Woman's Club. Mrs. Williams is a lady of refinement and culture. She is a graduate of the college department of the Normal School at Brockport, N. Y., and took a special course in drawing and painting at the New England Conservatory of Boston, and was a school teacher in the public schools of Washington, D. C., for six years. Mr. Willams' office is at 118 Adams street.

Franklin A. Denison is a colored man of exceptional educational attainments. He was born in San Antonio, Texas, June 26, 1861. He attended to public school there until he was sixteen years of age and then apprenticed himself to a carriage maker, where he learned the trade. In 1883 he left Texas and entered Lincoln University, at Oxford, Pa.; from 1883 to 1888 he studied at Oxford, and in June of that year graduated with honor. Upon leaving there came to Chicago and took a course in the Union College of Law, graduating from there in March, 1889.

He was admitted to the Illinois bar March 29, 1889, and soon after commenced the practice of law in Chicago. He was first appointed as one of the assistants to the city prosecuting attorney by Mayor [Hempstead] Washburn in 1889, being retained under Mayors [Carter Henry] Harrison and [John] Hopkins, and appointed under Mayor [George] Swift to the position of chief assistant prosecuting attorney. He has filled this position with credit to himself and the race to which he belongs. He has the confidence of the bench and the bar of this city.

Mr. Denison is the only colored man who has ever held such an appointment in the law department of the government of this city. He was married to Alice Taylor in Chicago in 1891.

Charles P. Walker was admitted to the Illinois bar October 8, 1890. His office is at 614 First National Bank building.

Edward G. Alexander was born in Chicago, is a graduate of the high school, went to the Athenaeum and to Bryant & Stratton's Business College, took the two years regular course at the Chicago College of Law, and afterward the post graduate course, and was admitted to the Illinois bar March 18, 1891; was in the office of Col. Augustus Jacobson for ten years and has given considerable time to the practice of criminal law. He is a member of the law firm of Johnson & Alexander with offices at 112 Dearborn street.

Lewis W. Cummings received the degree of A. B. from Fisk University, Nashville, Tenn., in June, 1885. He came to Chicago in January, 1887, began the study of law in the office of Meech, Asay & Rice, entered the Chicago College of Law and graduated with the class of 1889, which was the first class to graduate from that institution. After graduation he spent one year with Siegel, Cooper & Co. He entered the registry department of the post office in 1890, and has since devoted his days to practice and his evenings to working for Uncle Sam. Mr. Cummings was admitted to the Illinois bar in May, 1891.

W. W. Johnson, a law partner for some time of Edward G. Alexander, is a bright fellow and wide awake; is college-bred; graduate of a law school in the District of Columbia; was admitted to the bar of the supreme court of the District of Columbia, February, 16, 1892, and of the supreme court of Illinois, May 2, 1893. The offices of the firm are at 112 Dearborn street.

S. A. T. Watkins was born in Memphis, Tenn., of a slave mother, January 25, 1869; graduated from the LeMoyne Institute May 30, 1888; taught school one year in Memphis; read law for two years in the office of T. F. Cassels, assistant attorney general of Tennessee; was admitted to the bar of Tennessee, February 5, 1891, and appeared, and was enrolled as an attorney in the supreme court of that State, May 30, 1892. In July of that year he removed to Chicago, was admitted to the Illinois bar June 15, 1893, and has been practicing law in this city ever since. His office is at 79 Dearborn street.

William H. Ward is now assistant county prosecutor under county attorney Robert S. Iles. He was born in Lynchburg, Va., October 10, 1870. Graduated from the high school of that city in June 1890, and from the Law Department of Howard University, Washington, D. C., 1892; coming to Chicago, he was admitted to the Illinois bar June 16, 1893.

M. A. Mardis graduated from the Law Department of the Northwestern University in June, 1893, and was admitted to the Illinois bar June 16th of that year. His practice has been mostly at the police court at the Harrison street station. He has made considerable money signing bail bonds in criminal cases at the police station. His office is at 400 Dearborn street.

Albert G. Hubbard was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1858. His parents were born and raised in Illinois. He was educated at Oberlin, passed through the public schools there and then spent two years at Oberlin College; taught school thirteen years in Oberlin and came to Chicago in 1889; was clerk for P. H. White, justice of peace, one and one half years; was clerk for Thomas Bradwell, justice of the peace, for two years; during these two years he attended the Chicago College of Law, from which he graduated in 1893, and was admitted to the Illinois bar, June 22 of the same year. It was through the advice of Thomas Bradwell that Mr. Hubbard studied law. He was clerk in Justice Foster's court at Harrison street station thirteen months under appointment from Mayor Harrison.

Mr. Hubbard has a fair practice. It is more with Italians than with colored clients. His office is at 151 Clark street.

James H. Lewis was born in Loudoun County, Virginia, in 1849, and a slave until he was eight years old. His father was a free man, his mother a slave. His father was a blacksmith, and with the money earned in the blacksmith shop he purchased his wife, his son, James H., and his little brother. James H. went to Palatine, Illinois, in 1859, and worked for Mr. Crosby for a time; enlisted in the army in 1863; was mustered out in 1866 as sergeant of Company B, 3d Cavalry, U. S. Volunteers. He is as proud of the fact that he was at the siege of Vicksburg as he is that he is a member of the Chicago bar. He graduated from the Chicago College of Law in the class of 1892, and was admitted to the Illinois bar June 26, 1893. His office is at 2817 State street. The transformation of Lewis from a slave to a soldier and from a soldier to a practicing lawyer in Chicago seems more like a romance than a reality.

J. Gray Lucas graduated from the Industrial University of Arkansas at Pine Bluff, in 1884, and from the Boston University Law School in 1887. He came to Chicago, and, having been previously admitted to the Arkansas bar, he was, on motion, admitted to the Illinois bar, October 23, 1893. He has a neat office at 100 Washington street, in the Tile and Trust Company's building, and doing a good business.

Hale Giddings Parker's father was a slave. His name is John P. Parker. He is now living in Ohio, engaged in the foundry business at Ripley. He was a slave in Mobile, Ala., and bought himself for \$1,800. He came north and worked in the foundry of the McCagg Bros. as a moulder, saved money and established a foundry of his own, and finally bought the McCagg foundry for \$10,000. He has been in Ohio since 1849, and was, up to the breaking out of the war, an active conductor on the underground railroad. There was at one time a reward of \$3,000 offered by the slave power for his capture.

Hale Giddings Parker and his brother John were sent to Oberlin College, in the spring of 1867; as soon as John reached his Sophomore year he left Oberlin and went to Harvard where he died. Hale remained at Oberlin and graduated from there in 1873. Edward A. Shedd, of the Knickerbocker Ice Company, was one of his classmates, and graduated the same year. His father must have been a double-barreled abolitionist or he would never have named his son Hale Giddings.

After Mr. Parker left college he went to teaching school in Madison, Indiana, where he was principal of the colored school; from there he went to Louisville, where he taught for a short time; from there he went back to Madison, Ind.; taught there for one year and then went to St. Louis where he accepted a principalship in the Dumas School, and taught there for sixteen years; all the years before he had been "nibbling" at the law, but in St. Louis he studied law for three years in the St. Louis Law School, graduated therefrom in June, 1885, and was admitted to the St. Louis bar in that year. He practiced there during his vacations and worked in the office nights and mornings while teaching school; this school had over one thousand scholars.

He was appointed by President [Benjamin] Harrison Alternate Commissioner at Large of the World's Fair, and was the only colored member of the National Board from the United States. He sat as commissioner at all the sessions of the board but two.

Mr. Parker, upon presenting his Missouri license was admitted to the Illinois bar by the supreme court of this State at Ottawa. He is an eloquent speaker, an able lawyer and a good American citizen.

He married Eleanor O. Steel, a collegiate student of Oberlin College. They were married at Christmas time in 1877. They have three children, two of whom are girls who are attending the high school at Hyde Park. His office is at 125 Clark st., Morrison Bld'g.

James E. White was born in Powellsville, N. C., April 16, 1865. Both of his parents were slaves but he himself knew nothing about slavery.

He was educated at a Normal School, Plymouth, N. C.; entered the preparatory department of Howard University in 1883 and remained there four years; finished this course and entered upon the regular University course which he finished four years later, and received the degree of B. A.

In 1891 he entered the law department of Howard University and graduated from there in 1893, receiving the degree of LL.B. After leaving the law school of Washington he went to Boston and attended a course of lectures at the Boston Law School on International Law.

Mr. White came to Chicago, and although he was a post graduate he took the examination before the Appellate Court and was admitted to the Illinois bar March 26, 1894. His office is at 49 Dearborn street with Franklin A. Denison.

His father's master's name was James E. White, and Mr. White was named after him.

W. B. Akers obtained his education in the public schools of Chicago and graduated from the high school. He was admitted to the Illinois bar June 13, 1894. He has a finely fitted up office at 167 Dearborn street and looks like business.

Charles W. Strutchin has a liberal education; spent three years in the University of Washington; left the state of Washington, went to Michigan, received the degree of Bachelor of Laws from the University of Michigan in 1893, and the degree of Master of Laws in 1894; was admitted to the Michigan bar June 10, 1893; came to Chicago, and was admitted to the Illinois bar November 22, 1894, where he has since resided, and has an office at 79 Clark street. His clients are not confined to colored people.

R. M. Mitchell exercises considerable influence in politics here. He is a good speaker. He has held a number of positions of trust, and performed the duties with ability and fidelity.

In 1887-8 he was deputy collector of taxes for the South Town of Chicago; for seven years a deputy clerk of the Criminal Court; three years chief clerk of Harrison street police station; for four years deputy collector and chief clerk of gaugers, and storekeeper.

Mr. Mitchell was admitted to the Illinois bar March 26, 1895, having passed the examination before the Appellate Court of this city.

He is quite an orator, and it is perhaps not too much to say that he can "make the American Eagle soar higher and scream louder" than any other colored lawyer in Chicago.

William G. Anderson was born in New Orleans, came to Chicago, graduated from the public schools here, studied law in Judge Payne's office and was four and a half years as stenographer and typewriter. He passed the examination of the Appellate Court at the March term and was admitted to the Illinois bar March 28, 1896. Subsequent to the employment with Judge Payne; he was law clerk and stenographer in the Probate Court four years, and private secretary to clerk Roger Sullivan. Mr. Anderson has the respect of the bench and bar of this city. While getting his education he had to support his mother and two sisters. He is a member of St. Thomas' Episcopal church. He is a notary public, has a large acquaintance and is doing well. His office is at 77 Clark street.

Thomas L. Johnson graduated from the public schools of Chicago, attended the law department of the Northwestern University, graduated from that institution in June, 1896, and was admitted to the Illinois bar June, 1896. His office is at 167 Dearborn street.

Miss Ida Platt was born in Chicago, of colored parents, Sept. 29, 1863; educated in the public schools of this city, and graduated from the high school with honor, at the age of sixteen, in the same class with Horace S. Oakley, of the law firm of Ball, Wood & Oakley, the well known lawyer, Joseph W. Errant, and Dr. Mary Mixer.

Miss Platt studied music under Mme. Eugenie de Roode Rice. In 1883 she entered the insurance office of Mr. Holger de Roode; was for nearly nine years his private secretary and stenographer and also had charge of the claim department. In 1892 she entered the law office of Jesse Cox as stenographer, and commenced the study of law in the Chicago College of Law. In July, 1893, she established herself in the Ashland Blk. as general stenographer and law reporter.

Miss Platt graduated from the Chicago College of Law June 15, 1894; and received her

license to practice at the Illinois bar in June of that year. One of the judges of the supreme court, when he signed his name to the license admitting Miss Platt, said: "We have done to-day what we never did before--admitted a colored woman to the bar; and it may now be truly said that persons are admitted to the Illinois bar without regard to race, sex or color."

In noticing the admission of Miss Platt we said: "We are glad to welcome Miss Platt as the first colored woman ever admitted to the Illinois bar, and are pleased to be able to say that she is a woman of very decided ability, being an excellent short hand reporter, proficient in German, French and music, agreeable in manner; she will enter upon her professional career with talents possessed by few. We wish her abundant success."

Miss Platt since her admission to the bar has been in the office, in the Unity building, of that well known lawyer and member of the Board of Education, Joseph W. Errant. Mr. Errant speaks in the highest terms of Miss Platt.

John L. Turner was born in Dallas, Texas, of slave parents. The parents took the name of their master, Turner, The father was sold to William McKane, of Frankfort, Texas, and is still living. Both parents were in law emancipated by Abraham Lincoln's proclamation, but in fact were kept in slavery until June, 1865. Young Turner commenced his education in a district school in Texas, and as soon as he was competent took second grade examination before the county board of examiners to teach school; he commenced teaching in Lewisville, Texas, and taught in that state three years.

After he had taught and saved money enough, to go to college he went to Wiley University in Marshall, Texas, completed the second year's course there, went to the New Orleans University and graduated in the Normal course in 1893; taught school another year and helped his father on the farm during the vacation. In 1894 he commenced to study law in Dallas, with Joseph E. Wiley (colored), a graduate of the Union College of Law of Chicago, and after remaining there one year he came to Chicago, entered the law office of Barnett & Williams (colored), graduated from the Kent College of Law and was admitted to the Illinois bar June, 1896.

Beauregard F. Moseley is a colored man of more than ordinary ability, is a fair speaker, an active Republican, and has made a number of speeches during the campaign. He has been dabbling in the law for a number of years both in New Orleans and Chicago. Mr. Moseley says he was admitted to practice in the District Court at New Orleans in November, 1890; that he studied law in the office of Mr. Furgeson for fifteen months in Georgia and in the office of the U. S. District Attorney at New Orleans. He has held several positions of trust under the Government at New Orleans. He now holds the position of Assistant Town Attorney for the Town of Lake and has succeeded in building up quite a little law practice here and is capable of doing a good business.

He was educated in the public schools and at Payne Institute, Augusta, Georgia. He has taught school both in Louisiana and Georgia. Mr. Moseley was examined in the class before the Appellate Court, October 14, 1896, and received the certificate of qualification to practice law, which has been forwarded to the supreme court at Ottawa, and he will probably receive his license before we go to press. His office is at 6303 S. Halsted street.

E. H. Wright is an active Republican politician of considerable ability; he might be termed a hustler. He was examined in the class before the Appellate Court of this district, October 14, 1896, and received the necessary certificate of qualification for admission to the bar, which has

been forwarded to the supreme court. His office is at 205 Clark street.