

THE SOUTHERN CENTER
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

PRESENTS



2020

FREDERICK DOUGLASS

Awards

HONORING

THE DEFENSE TEAM OF
CURTIS FLOWERS

NOVEMBER 11, 2020

VIA VIRTUAL BROADCAST

SPONSORSHIP AND EVENT INFO

WHO WE ARE



The **Southern Center for Human Rights (SCHR)** is working for equality, dignity, and justice for people impacted by the criminal legal system in the Deep South. SCHR fights for a world free from mass incarceration, the death penalty, the criminalization of poverty, and racial injustice.

During his acceptance of SCHR's Frederick Douglass Human Rights Award on November 13, 2014, Congressman John Lewis declared:

“We’re not there yet. We have not yet created the Beloved Community. There are still too many people left out and left behind in America. And as long as I have breath in my body to get up and move and speak up and speak out and find a way to get in the way and get into trouble, I’m going to do it.”

Congressman Lewis kept his promise.

The caption on the beautiful portrait of Congressman Lewis on Auburn Avenue in Atlanta, Georgia, reads “HERO.” As we mourn the loss of a giant, we reflect on our good fortune to have had a true hero in our midst, reminding us of how far we have come, and urging us to struggle forward. Congressman Lewis set the standard for commitment to social justice and building a better world.

SCHR honors Congressman Lewis’s legacy by working to build the beloved community he envisioned. Your gifts, your partnership, and your encouragement enable us to stand firm in the face of injustice, strengthened by the knowledge that we are all in this struggle together. We are the torchbearers carrying forth the flame lit by prior generations to lead the way toward justice. Thank you for following Congressman Lewis’s example by speaking up, speaking out, and not being afraid to get into “good trouble.”

The Southern Center for Human Rights is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization. Contributions to SCHR’s Frederick Douglass Awards Dinner are tax-deductible minus the value of benefit or goods and services received in exchange for the donation.

*HERO



JOHN LEWIS
CIVIL RIGHTS ICON

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS



The **Frederick Douglass Awards Dinner** is SCHR's flagship gala to recognize and celebrate those who demonstrate exceptional courage and tenacity in the defense of human rights and equal justice. This gala allows us to illuminate allies who share our vision and commitment to a more just society.

Proceeds from the Frederick Douglass Awards Dinner support SCHR's work to protect the civil and human rights of people ensnared by the criminal legal system.

SCHR has made a measurable impact on the criminal justice system in the South. Since the 2019 Frederick Douglas Awards and with the financial support of our sponsors:

- **In the summer of 2019, SCHR volunteered to represent Jimmy Meders, who had been sentenced to death, during his end-stage litigation.** We received notice on December 30th that Mr. Meders was scheduled to be executed on January 16th. SCHR attorney Michael Admirand presented a compelling case during the clemency hearing which was held on January 15th. Michael combined his power as an attorney with his love for Mr. Meders for a powerful presentation in favor of justice. **A mere six hours before he was scheduled to be executed, the Georgia Board of Pardons and Paroles granted clemency to Jimmy Meders, converting his death sentence to life without the possibility of parole.**
- To ensure that our formerly incarcerated clients have the resources necessary to establish their independence, **SCHR hired a Client Services Advocate, Waleisah Wilson, in March 2020.** Ms. Wilson brings to the role her personal experience as a formerly incarcerated person as well as seven years of experience leading a reentry nonprofit. She works with our clients to address their needs for identification documents, government benefits and healthcare, long-term housing, employment, and other legal services. Having a Client Services Advocate on staff has proven critical during this pandemic, as we work feverishly to obtain the release of as many people as possible from conditions that endanger their health. **Since March, SCHR has helped ten clients secure their release from prison and return to their communities, including two people who we succeeded in getting their murder convictions overturned.**
- **SCHR is responding to the COVID-19 pandemic by protecting people who are incarcerated in Georgia's jails and prisons or who may encounter the criminal legal system during this public health crisis.** In July 2020, SCHR and the ACLU filed a lawsuit against the Clayton County Sheriff for failing to adequately protect people in the jail's custody and jail employees from the dangers of COVID-19. As of June, there were forty-five positive cases in the jail, with sixteen new cases reported in the first week of June alone. This class-action lawsuit asks the courts to release or transfer medically vulnerable populations and require the jail to provide adequate personal protective equipment and implement social distancing measures.
- **As community members in Atlanta began to protest the murders of Ahmaud Arbery, Breonna Taylor, George Floyd, and Rayshard Brooks at the hands of law-enforcement and vigilantes hiding behind the guise of the legal system, SCHR worked to support these efforts.** We disseminated Know-Your-Rights materials so that residents could understand their legal rights as protesters. We worked to support allied organizations' movement building efforts. When protesters were arrested at demonstrations, we provided legal representation to some demonstrators and recruited pro bono counsel to ensure that everyone had a lawyer advocating on their behalf. We continue to train and support these volunteer attorneys as they work to defend people who are raising their voices to create change.

HONOREES



SCHR is pleased to present the **2020 Frederick Douglass Awards** to deserving honorees whose efforts to advance human rights and equal justice light the path to a more justice society.

2019 FREDERICK DOUGLASS HUMAN RIGHTS AWARD

CURTIS FLOWERS DEFENSE TEAM

SCHR is proud to announce that the recipients of our 2020 Frederick Douglass Human Rights Award are the champions for Mr. Curtis Flowers, a man who was tried six times for the murder of four people in a furniture store in Mississippi. Each time, his conviction and death sentence were overturned due to prosecutorial misconduct. As a result of decades of fearless advocacy, Mr. Flowers is now out of prison awaiting a possible seventh trial. With this award, SCHR honors the instructive and awe-inspiring combination of talents that formed a multi-pronged approach to save Mr. Flowers' life and expose the rampant injustice in his case. We look forward to celebrating Robert McDuff, Max Mayes, Tucker Carrington, Keir Weyble, Sherri Lynn Johnson, Jonathan Abram, David Maxwell, Kathryn Ali, Ashley Johnson, and Henderson Hill.

IN THE DARK

Curtis Flowers released on bail

A Mississippi judge allows Flowers to leave jail to await a possible seventh trial.

December 16, 2019 | by Parker Yesko



The case of Curtis Flowers was chronicled by American Public Media's *In the Dark* podcast during season two.

Curtis Flowers leaves the Winston County jail with sisters Charita Baskin (left) and Priscilla Ward. Hunter Hart for APM Reports

EVENT SPONSORSHIP BENEFITS	\$25,000 Presenter	\$15,000 Champion	\$10,000 Benefactor	\$7,500 Reception Sponsor	\$5,000 Defender	\$2,500 Guardian	\$1,500 Advocate	\$600 Patron
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- Digital journal slides will be shown throughout the reception and dinner
- Specs: 10" wide x 5.63" tall

HALF PAGE DIGITAL JOURNAL AD: \$600

- Digital journal slides will be shown throughout the reception and dinner
- Specs: 5" wide x 5.63" tall

ACCEPTED FILE FORMATS: High resolution (300 dpi), JPEG, PDF, PNG, PSD, or EPS file. Design services available upon request.

Questions? Contact Deputy Director Terrica Ganzy at (404) 688-1202 or tganzy@schr.org.

Please Fax or Mail this completed form with your check or payment information to:

ATTN: 2020 Frederick Douglass Awards

Southern Center for Human Rights

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- ONLINE [HTTPS://WWW.SCHR.ORG/UPCOMING EVENTS/24TH ANNUAL DINNER](https://www.schr.org/upcoming_events/24th_annual_dinner)
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