

Distinguished Achievement Citation

Alex Shumate

Class of 1972

With pride, we present Ohio Wesleyan's Distinguished Achievement Citation to Alex Shumate in recognition of his exceptional career as a public servant, a respected lawyer and for his involvement as a champion of civil rights.

After graduating from Ohio Wesleyan in 1972 with his bachelor's degree in Politics & Government, Alex earned a law degree from the University of Akron in 1975 and then landed a dream job for him, which was in the newly forming civil rights section of the Ohio Attorney general's office. During the first tenure he served as a chief of several sections and advanced to executive assistant Attorney General before leaving in 1982 to enter private practice, but the state called again, in 1985, and Alex agreed to serve as then Ohio Governor Richard F. Celeste's chief counsel for another three years.

Then in 1988, Alex joined the 111-year-old firm of Squire, Sanders & Dempsey as a partner and in 1991 he became the first Columbus African American attorney to be named managing partner of a major, predominately-white firm in charge of 80 lawyers. While all managing partners are expected to be in the firm's presence within the community, as well as good lawyers and leaders of others, Alex took this philosophy to new heights becoming involved in a myriad of community leadership roles.

He was the first African American director of Bank One Corporation, and only the 5th African American to be appointed to the Ohio State University Board of Trustees and was serving as Chairman of that board during the Presidential search of 1998. He has served on the boards of Intimate Brands, Inc., William Wrigley Jr. Company, The Ohio State University Foundation, the Columbus Museum of Art and the Columbus Foundation. In addition, he as served as Chairman of the Greater Columbus Chamber of Commerce, the Capital Club, Columbus Urban League, and the Arthur G. James Cancer Hospital. Alex has received countless awards and honors from such organizations as the Columbus Bar Association, the United Negro College Fund, the NAACP, the Ohio General assembly, and the Capital University School of Law. He has received the Ohio State University Distinguished Service award, the Jewish National Fund Tree of Life Award for outstanding professional and humanitarian achievements, the 1995 Robert S. Crane Trusteeship Award form Leadership Columbus, the Outstanding Alumni award from the University of Akron School of Law and in 1992 he was recognized as a Distinguished Alumnus by Ohio Wesleyan.

While at Ohio Wesleyan, Alex was involved with the Student Union on Black Awareness, as member of the Varsity Tennis team and W-Clan, he also met his wife Sharon here, who is a 1974 graduate and they have two sons. As an alumnus he has served on the Alumni boards of Directors, and the Board of Trustees.

We join his reunioning classmates in saluting Alex Shumate and recognizing his outstanding accomplishments through the presentation of this Distinguished Achievement Award.

May 18, 2002

