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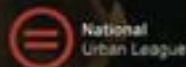
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June/July 2007 \$3.99
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"I am proud to lead the oldest Black-owned law firm in Chicago, and my goal is to make it the largest Black-owned law firm in the history of the United States."



BERVE POWER, JR. ESQ.

ATTORNEY AND MENTOR

MEN OF INFLUENCE

Continuing the legacy of Power and Dixon, P.C. as one of the most respected and oldest Black-owned law firms in Chicago, Berve Power, Jr. Esq. became managing partner in 2002, as his uncle and one of the founders of the firm, Robert C. Power, successfully transitioned the firm's leadership to him. Attorney Power has honored the tradition and advanced the practice through focused, community-driven work and service.

Practicing law since passing the bar at the age of 23, the former intern of the US Attorney's Office, has a keen focus on civil rights. Power has been part of internationally noted cases, including "The Ryan Harris Case" in which a 7- and 8-year-old were wrongly accused of murder. The criminal case was dismissed due to lack of evidence against the Chicago youth. The civil case against the City of Chicago on behalf of the youth who were falsely accused, was settled in 2005 for \$6.2 million.

In 1999, Power joined a team of attorneys, along with Rev. Jesse Jackson, Sr. to represent the interest of seven young Black males who were on the verge of being expelled from school for two years because of an altercation at a football game, which was nationally televised. The case, known as "The Decatur 7", resulted in the boys being able to continue in school and graduate with their respective classes.

Attorney Power earned his law degree from DePaul University, College of Law in Chicago, Illinois and studied international law in Cairo, Egypt and Capetown, South Africa. He is admitted to practice in the State of Illinois, has

litigated cases in Florida, Arkansas, Indiana, Georgia, and Pennsylvania, and amidst a demanding schedule, Power taught criminal justice courses at Kennedy-King College for three years.

Currently, Power is lead attorney on "The Fred Grady Case" where a renowned blues musician was arrested for trespassing as he retrieved tools from his impounded van, and, within hours, died in police custody. In 2003, the case was on the verge of being thrown out of court when the judge offered the family one last opportunity to secure an attorney to represent their concerns. Attorney Power was called and the case has advanced exponentially and is now set for trial on July 9, 2007.

A graduate of Morehouse College, Power was reared on Chicago's south side, and remains close to his Chicago roots and his ties to the Nation of Islam under the leadership of The Honorable Minister Louis Farrakhan, where he has been a member for more than 12 years and now serves as one of the attorneys for The Nation.

Given his pedigree, it would cause anyone a moment of pause to hear Attorney Power say, "Law is not my passion." But as he elaborates on his mission to 'liberate, uplift and advance his people,' you quickly understand that practicing law, as he puts it, "...is just a tool on my tool belt."

An active member of Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity, Power maintains that his life's work is to mentor and develop young people- as future attorneys or in other professions-

Photo: Fred Bessett



"My single objective is to continue fighting for the rights and liberties of our clients, everyday people who deserve equal access to the best of what this country can offer," says Power

to become "freedom fighters" for the African-American community. His future plans include creating a top-tier, exclusive, mentoring program for at-risk youth. The exclusive program would select and fully support a small group of teens each year as participants. The benefits of being in the program would include clothes, meals, travel, and exposure to new opportunities and environments while in high school. The expectation of the youth, and their parents or guardians, would be to take their education, career choices, and life more seriously, as well as take on mentoring incoming students before they complete the multi-year program.

"I enjoy working with young people and challenging them to create their own internal desires to excel. Once they have that desire, you don't have to worry about correcting them, they will correct themselves," Power suggests.

Reflecting on a recent example to illustrate his point, Power recalls speaking at an alternative school for students who did not pass 8th grade. One of the programs he uses when working with students is role-playing a courtroom experience, allowing the students to serve in all capacities from judge

to court reporters. "One young lady was completely disengaged in the discussions and should not have been assigned a role to play, but when I walked over to check on her, I saw she was drawing graffiti instead of participating in the class. I didn't dismiss her. I assigned her the task of being the courtroom artist," Power explains with great pride. "Her drawings are on the wall in my office to this day."

As a result of his commitment to serving his community, Attorney Power has received numerous awards including the Million Man of the Year Award and the N'Digo N'Law Award. Attorney Power has appeared in the Chicago Sun-Times, Chicago Tribune, The Chicago Defender, Chicago Southtown, and Jet Magazine. He has also been noted as a member of 'Chicago's Legal Dream Team' by N'Digo, and was featured as one of the '30 Leaders of the Future' in Ebony Magazine. Attorney Power has also been designated by DePaul University College of Law as one of the 16 most outstanding alumni of the past century.

Attorney Power is married to Tameka Power and they are the proud parents of 8-month-old Berve Power, III. **UIM**