

## Jamaican, First Black Woman To Become An Ivy League Professor Of Neurosurgery In The United States



Dr. Odette Harris

By Stephanie Korney  
*Jamaica.com*

Neurosurgeon Dr. Odette Harris of Stanford University is the first black woman to become a professor of Neurosurgery at an Ivy League school in the United States. She is also the first black woman to be named a professor of neurosurgery since Dr. Alexa Canady, a specialist in pediatric neurosurgery, rose to that position at Wayne State University in 1981. Dr. Canady worked in Minnesota and at Henry Ford in Detroit.

Before her promotion at Stanford, Dr. Harris was an associate professor of Neurosurgery and the director of Brain Injury at Stanford's School of Medicine. Additionally, Dr. Harris is the associate chief of staff of Polytrauma at the VA Palo Alto Health Care System and the site director/principal investigator of the Defense Veterans and Brain Injury Center in Palo Alto.

After she completed her residency, she received the William Van Wagenen Fellowship from the American Association of Neurological Surgeons. She is also a Clayman Institute Faculty Research Fellow. Dr. Harris is a graduate of Dartmouth College, receiving her MD from Stanford's School of Medicine, where she also completed her internship and residency at the university's Medical Center. She has an MPH from the University of California at Berkeley.

In a 2017 interview in which she hoped to inspire young girls to pursue careers in science, Dr. Harris said she first became interested in math in grade school and in high school

became increasingly interested in science "as an integrated component to mathematics." She attended an all-girls' school and was taught science by a woman, an experience that empowered her when she decided to become a doctor.

When asked if she faced problems related to her gender in pursuing her scientific interests, Dr. Harris noted, "race and gender are inextricably linked and that Dartmouth had "a lot of issues with race" when she started as a freshman. She acknowledged that race played a role in her experience as a doctor, noting, "You're black, you're a woman, you're in an all-white hospital—patients are constantly reminding you of that. I could list probably a hundred different experiences where I was asked to empty the garbage, or take out the trays, or clean out the toilets when I was just there to use the bathroom myself."

When asked if she thinks women bring something unique to science, Dr. Harris replied, "I do, but I also think that everybody has something. In answering the question, well, should I say, I do think women have more to offer? I think we're then discounting the male perspective. My answer is that I feel like we all have that little slither, that unique thing that we bring, regardless of what we look like, regardless of what gender we are."

Dr. Harris, who is Jamaican, received a Scientific Award from the Caribbean Association Neuroscience Symposium/University Hospital of the West Indies in 2011.

(Information and Photo Source: Stanford)

## Leondra Kruger, Daughter Of Jamaican Immigrant, One Of Biden's Top Three Supreme Court Picks

By Stephanie Korney  
*Jamaica.com*

Leondra Kruger, California Supreme Court Justice and Deputy Assistant United States Attorney General, has been named one of the top three candidates President Joe Biden is considering for the seat on the US Supreme Court. Kruger would replace Justice Stephen Breyer, who announced he planned to retire at the end of the Court's current term.

If chosen, Kruger would make history by becoming the first black woman to serve on the Supreme Court. Kruger's nomination is of special interest to Jamaicans, as her mother immigrated to the US from Jamaica. Her late father's parents immigrated to the US from Europe.

Kruger, 45, was born in 1976 in Glendale, California, and grew up in South Pasadena. She attended the private day school, Polytechnic School, in Pasadena, before earning a BA, magna cum laude, from Harvard University.

In high school, she displayed an interest in journalism and was the editor of her school's newspaper. She wrote for the Harvard University daily student newspaper, the Crimson, during her time there, and after graduating from Harvard, attended Yale Law School, where she earned her Juris Doctor degree. While at Yale, she was the editor of the Yale Law Journal.

In 1999, Kruger was an intern at the US Attorney's office in Los Angeles, California, and in 2000, worked for the summer at Munger, Tolles & Olson. She then worked as an associate at Jenner & Block from 2001 to 2002 prior to serving as a law clerk from 2002 to 2003 for Judge David Tatel on the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

She went on to clerk for US Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens from 2003 to 2004. From 2004 to 2006, she worked in Washington DC as an associate at Wilmer, Cutler, Pickering, Hale, and served as a visiting assistant

professor at the University of Chicago Law School in 2007.

Kruger went into private practice and was a professor. From 2010 to 2011, Kruger served as acting principal deputy solicitor general of the US from 2007 to 2013, arguing 12 cases before the US Supreme Court, including with the defense of the Affordable Care Act. She also worked in the Office of Legal Counsel. She was appointed to a seat on the Supreme Court of California in 2014 by then-Governor Jerry Brown and was sworn in on January 5, 2015.

Leondra Kruger is married to Brian Hauck, a partner at Jenner & Block in San Francisco. The couple has two children.

There have been only two Black Supreme Court Justices to date, and both of them were men. Clarence Thomas was appointed in 1991 and still sits on the Court. Thurgood Marshall retired in 1991 and died in 1993.



Leondra Kruger



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## President Biden Urged To Exonerate Marcus Garvey



Curtis A. Ward  
Retired Jamaica Ambassador

The campaign to Exonerate Marcus Garvey hits high gear as 100,000 people in the United States and from around the world are urged to sign the White House Petition asking President Joe Biden to issue an exoneration of the historical black leader Marcus Garvey.

In what is celebrated as Black History Month in the United States, the time is now to right a wrong that was done against one of the most celebrated black leaders of all time.

Marcus Garvey's movement, the Universal Negro Improvement Association and African Communities League (UNIA) promoted the elevation of black people as equals to all other races. A Pan-Africanist,

Garvey through his movement, sought to unify people of African descent around the world and worked tirelessly towards eliminating economic discrimination and deprivation to which black people were subjected.

Garvey said to the colored race that if they were to be free of the oppressive societies in which they lived, they must become so through their own efforts.

He preached economic and political empowerment for all peoples of African descent, and for that he was persecuted by white racists who felt their privileges were threatened by his words and his works.

Numerous studies of the legal process and documents involved in Garvey's prosecution and conviction by a biased judge showed that Garvey was framed by the J. Edgar Hoover-led FBI who launched an undercover investigation to stop Garvey and his movement.

With the campaign in the United States by white racists and their enablers to deny and prevent the teaching of the history of the United States, many well-thinking Americans of all races may never learn of the importance of Garvey.

But as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, expressing a sentiment of black leaders and people around the world, "*Marcus Garvey was the first man of color in the history of the United States to lead and develop a mass move-*

*ment. He was the first man, on a mass scale, and level, to give millions of Negroes a sense of dignity and destiny, and make the Negro feel that he was somebody.*

*. . . He gave to the millions of Negroes in the United States a sense of personhood, a sense of manhood and a sense of somebodiness. . . ."*

Africans and people of African descent in the African Diaspora understand the impact Garvey had in awakening pride in themselves, and empowering them to reach beyond their immediate surroundings.

The lessons of Garvey resonate worldwide today. As Garvey himself said, "*A people without the knowledge of their past history, origin and culture is like a tree without roots.*"

We cannot afford those who are scared by the truths of our American and global history to deny us access to learning about it.

President Biden, it is not by happenstance that you have the best chance yet to exonerate Marcus Garvey and restore his name and honored place in the history of America and the world. You chose as your vice-presidential running mate a woman of color, Kamala Harris, whose father was born in the same parish in Jamaica as did Marcus Garvey.

You have this timely opportunity to clear the name of Garvey, a man who stands as the first designated National Hero of one of America's most faithful ally and friend, Jamaica.

Post By Curtis A. Ward,



Rt Hon. Marcus Mosiah Garvey

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# West Indian Social Club Of Hartford Installs 2022 Board of Directors



**WISC Directors ( L-R): Wayne Stapleton, Sheldon Morgan, Ogewu C. Agbese, Claudette M. Graham, Raquel Walker, Beverley M. D. Redd, Errol Smith, Vernetta Joshua, Marlene Lambert, Shauna Whitter**

**By Mark Milward**

The West Indian Social Club of Hartford, Inc., held its 2022 Board of Directors Installation ceremony on January 16, 2022, and established a new format for the organizations' management and operating protocol.

In 2019 the WISC membership voted to establish a Board of Directors to manage and oversee the affairs of the organization that required a change to the existing constitution at the time and chose to implement a BOD management approach.

By embracing this concept, elections were suspended, and a chairperson was installed, who in turn recruited individuals to serve in

various capacities as directors. The change in operating philosophy is not a new one. Other Jamaican/Caribbean Diaspora organizations have begun to embrace the idea of establishing committees to run the organizations and moving away from having elections and elected officials.

Outgoing Chairman Errol Smith passed the Gravel and chairperson responsibilities to incoming chairperson and former WISC Secretary Beverly Redd. The slate of Directors was appointed and then approved by the WISC membership body. The challenges of operating a social club in the mist of the COVID19 pandemic has been tremendous. The BOD established in

2019 successfully navigated the WISC through the pandemic and many of those directors have returned to serve in various capacities while offering a three-year commitment.

Doreen Forrest, WISC past president provided opening remarks for the 2022 BOD installation and shared some of the organization's history, including reflections on the aims and objectives of the founding fathers and their efforts to establish "A Home Away from Home" for West Indians migrating to the United States.

Incoming Chairperson Beverly Redd also spoke in glowing terms of the trail blazing accomplishments of the WISC founders

and speaking from a theme of "Keeping the Vision Alive."

The 2022 WISC BOD installation marked a new milestone in WISC's history. It demonstrates a willingness of the organization to

modify and adjust its practices to fit the circumstances, needs and daunting challenges of these times.

Congratulations and Godspeed to the newly installed WISC Board of Directors.



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## THE JAMAICA DIASPORA SHOW



**Mr. Euyald Clarke, 97 y/o Voyager  
USS David C. Shanks, Kingston Harbor to USA, May 7, 1943**

Mr. Euyald Clarke, pictured above (3<sup>rd</sup> L-R) with Mr. Keith Tinker (2<sup>nd</sup> L-R) reflects on his journey to the United States in 1943 and his eventual settlement in Hartford, Connecticut. Mr. Clarke who will turn 98 yrs/old on February 24, 2019, travelled on a naval transport vessel carrying over 4000 Jamaicans to fill the labor shortage void in the US as a result of World War II. Also aboard this vessel was the West Indian Social Club's oldest member, Mr. Kenneth Bennett Sr. (96 years old) who as Jamaican immigrant farm workers arrived in the Greater Hartford area and helped to forge a community now recognized as the 3<sup>rd</sup> largest population of Jamaicans in the United States. Recounting stories of German U-Boat sightings, crowded conditions, and tragic losses of life, Mr. Clarke shares this extraordinary journey and life in Jamaica before his departure as a young man. Watch on Hartford Public Access Television.

Broadcast airs on [www.hpatv.org](http://www.hpatv.org), Channel 5

Saturday, January 12 @ 2pm & Sunday, January 13, 2019 @ 3pm

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James Michel, Chief Executive Officer,  
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