

1-7-2003

## Black Heritage Stamp Series: Thurgood Marshall

United States Postal Service. Stamp Division

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**Issue Date**  
January 7, 2003

**First Day City**  
Washington, DC

**Photographer**  
Abdon Daoud Ackad, Sr.

**Designer**  
Richard Sheaff  
Scottsdale, AZ

**Art Director**  
Richard Sheaff

**Typographer**  
Richard Sheaff

**Modeler**  
Joseph Sheeran

**Manufacturing Process**  
Offset

**Printer**  
Ashton Potter (USA) Ltd.  
(APU)

**Engraver**  
N/A

**Colors**  
Black #1,  
Grey (PMS 422),  
Black #2

**Image Area**  
0.84 x 1.40 (in.)  
21.336 x 35.556 (mm.)

**Format**  
Pane of 20 (1 design)

**Plate Numbers**  
"P" followed by  
three (3) single digits

**Marginal Markings**  
© 2002 USPS, plate  
numbers in four corners,  
plate position diagram,  
price, two barcodes  
on back

## Thurgood Marshall

As a young man, Thurgood Marshall said he planned to "wear life like a loose garment." This 26th stamp in the Black Heritage series remembers a man who truly lived a grand life, and whose struggles and achievements contributed greatly to the advances of the civil rights movement.

Originally a lawyer with his own practice, Marshall began working as pro bono counsel for the Baltimore branch of the NAACP in 1934. By 1936 he was working for the NAACP's national legal staff in New York City, and two years later he was promoted to chief counsel and became responsible for running the NAACP's legal office.

Marshall began to argue cases before the Supreme Court when he became the director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., in 1940. In 1954, he and his legal team prevailed in the landmark case, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, which effectively ended segregation in public schools.

Marshall's appointment to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit by President John F. Kennedy in 1961 was followed by his appointment to solicitor general by President Johnson in 1965, where he won fourteen of the nineteen cases he argued before the U.S. Supreme Court. Two years later Marshall became the first African-American justice to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court. His 24-year tenure was marked by his commitment to defending constitutional rights and affirmative action and by his strong opposition to the death penalty.

Thurgood Marshall died in 1993, just two years after retiring from the Supreme Court. On November 30, 1993, he was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor.



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

# Thurgood Marshall

WITH THIS 26TH STAMP in the Black Heritage series, the U.S. Postal Service honors Thurgood Marshall. Marshall worked as a civil rights lawyer for many years before becoming the first African American to serve as solicitor general of the United States. He was also the first African American to serve as a U.S. Supreme Court justice.

Born on July 2, 1908, Marshall graduated first in his law school class at Howard University in 1933. By late 1936 he was working for the NAACP's national legal staff in New York City, and he became the first director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund, Inc., in 1940.

Among his many high-profile victories were decisions in which the Supreme Court prohibited the enforcement of racially restrictive real estate covenants and declared the practice of holding whites-only primaries unconstitutional. In 1954, Marshall and his legal team prevailed in the landmark Supreme Court case, *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, that struck down segregation in public schools.

In 1961, President Kennedy appointed Marshall to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. He served on that court until 1965, when President Johnson appointed him the first African-American solicitor general of the United States. As the nation's highest-ranking lawyer, Marshall won 14 of the 19 cases he argued for the U.S. before the Supreme Court.



*Thurgood Marshall*



*Equal Justice  
Under Law*

Marshall made history again in 1967, when he was sworn in as the first African-American justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. His 24-year tenure was marked by his commitment to defending constitutional rights and affirmative action and by his strong opposition to the death penalty. He distinguished himself with his passionate dissents, often sparring in writing with his more conservative colleagues.

This stamp, featuring a photograph by Abdon Daoud Ackad, Sr., was designed by Richard Sheaff. It was issued on January 7, 2003, in Washington, D.C.

left center: Painting by Simmie L. Knox, Collection of the Supreme Court of the United States; background: Everett Collection © Bettmann/CORBIS; signature: Courtesy of the Library of Congress

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.37  
x20  
\$7.40





Thurgood Marshall



FIRST DAY OF ISSUE

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Special Collections

## THURGOOD MARSHALL (1908-1993)

With the 26<sup>th</sup> stamp issuance in the Black Heritage Commemorative Series, the United States Postal Service honors Thurgood Marshall, a famed civil rights lawyer and U. S. Supreme Court justice.

Born in Baltimore, Maryland, on July 2, 1908, Marshall graduated with honors in 1930 from Lincoln University and was determined to become a lawyer. Later that year he entered Howard University Law School in Washington, DC. After graduating first in his law school class in 1933, Marshall opened a private practice in Baltimore.

He became the first director-counsel of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) legal Defense and Education Fund in 1940. In this position, Marshall and his legal team prevailed in the landmark Supreme Court case, "Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas," that struck down segregation in public schools.

He was appointed the first African-American solicitor general of the United States in 1965.

Marshall made history again in 1967, when he was sworn in as the first African-American justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. His 24-year tenure was marked by his commitment to defending constitutional rights and affirmative action and by his strong opposition to the death penalty.

Thurgood Marshall died on January 24, 1993, in Bethesda, Maryland, at the age of 84. He was posthumously awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom—our country's highest civilian honor—on November 30, 1993

This stamp features a black-and-white photograph of Marshall taken by Abdon Daoud Ackard, Sr., in late 1967, shortly after Marshall became a justice of the U.S. Supreme Court. The stamp was designed by Richard Sheaff of Scottsdale, Arizona.



UNITED STATES  
POSTAL SERVICE®

THURGOOD MARSHALL  
FIRST DAY OF ISSUE CEREMONY  
THURGOOD MARSHALL FEDERAL  
JUDICIARY BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC  
JANUARY 7, 2003

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Presiding                 | Karen Hastie Williams<br>Partner Crowell & Moring LLP   |
| Presentation of Colors    | Armed Forces Color Guard  |
| National Anthem           | Howard University Choir   |
| Welcome                   | Leonidas Ralph Mecham<br>Director, Administrative<br>Office of the U.S. Courts                    |
| Remarks                   | William H. Rehnquist<br>Chief Justice of the<br>United States                                     |
| Musical Tribute           | Youthful Spirit   |
| Dedication of Stamp       | John E. Potter<br>Postmaster General<br>United States Postal Service                              |
| Tributes to Thurgood      | Honorable Ralph K. Winter<br>U.S. Circuit Judge, 2nd Circuit<br>Honorable William T. Coleman, Jr. |
| Lift Every Voice and Sing | Howard University Choir<br>& Audience   |
| Closing Remarks           | Karen Hastie Williams   |

Rodney L. Ware  
Thomas G. Campbell  
Special Collections Library  
Hust Sr. Papers