

Gary Bledsoe

President

Texas State Conference of NAACP Branches

Austin lawyer Gary L. Bledsoe is President of the Texas NAACP and has held that position since being elected in 1991. He also is a member of the National Board of the NAACP since 2003. As NAACP President, Gary has been involved in activities that have led to important changes, including handling the racial discrimination complaints against the Department of Public Safety that broke the racial barriers preventing minorities and women from being Texas Rangers. He was also the lead lawyer for the NAACP in the recent Congressional Litigation. Since 2007 he has been a member of the Texas Southern University Board of Regents.

Many local and national groups have recognized Gary for his legal acumen and for his civil rights works, including the Texas Peace Officer's Association, the Travis County Bar Association, the Austin NAACP, and the national NAACP, and the Austin Area Urban League among others.

Gary graduated from the University of Texas in 1973 with honors and special departmental honors and earned a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas School of Law in 1976, where he is the permanent class President of the Class of 1976.

He was a Big Brother and is a member of the Social Justice Committee for his church, Holy Cross Catholic Church in East Austin. Gary also is a member of the Knights of St. Peter Claver that mentors young men and does charity work in Austin and Texas. Bledsoe has received the Kelly Alexander State President of the Year Award, the Juanita Jackson Mitchell Award for Legal Advocacy and the Benjamin Hooks Keeper of the Flame Award from the National NAACP.