

**Damon J. Keith
Timeline**

- July 4, 1922** Born in home in Detroit
- 1939** Graduated from Northwestern High
- 1943** Graduated from West Virginia State University (B.A.) (Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity)
- 1943** Enlisted in United States Army
- 1949** Graduated from Howard University School of Law (J.D.)
- 1950** Associate with Loomis, Jones, Piper & Colden
- 1950-52** Friend of the Court Enforcement Attorney
- 1952-55** Partner with Colden, Snowden, Smith and Keith
- 1953** Married Rachel Boone (three daughters)
- 1956** Wayne State University Law School (L.L.M.)
- 1957-61** Wayne County Board of Supervisors
- 1958-63** Detroit Housing Commission (1958-67; VP 1959; Pres. 1960-67)
- 1960-67** Commission, Michigan State Bar
- 1961** Legal Staff, Detroit Board of Education
- 1964** Chair, Civil Rights Commission, Detroit Bar Association
- 1964-67** Michigan Civil Rights Commission
- 1964** Elected co-Chair of the Michigan Civil Rights Commission with John Feikens
- 1964-67** Established law firm of Keith, Conyers, Anderson, Brown, and Wahls
- 1967** Nominated by U.S. Senator Phillip A. Hart, appointed U.S. District Judge, Eastern District of Michigan by President Lyndon B. Johnson
- 1970** Davis v. School District of City of Pontiac (desecrations)
- 1971** Garrett v. City of Hamtramck (housing discrimination)
- 1971** United States v. Sinclair (Upheld by the Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals and the United States Supreme Court (United States v. U.S. District Court (1972) also known as the “Keith case”) and commemorated as a “Michigan Legal Milestone” called “the Uninvited Ear” by the State Bar of Michigan
- 1974** Judge Keith awarded the Spingarn Medal from the NAACP
- 1975** Stamps v. Detroit Edison (job discrimination)
- December 13, 1975 – October 21, 1977** Chief Judge of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Michigan
- 1976** Appointed to United States Sixth Circuit Court by President Jimmy Carter
- October 21, 1977 – May 1, 1995** Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit (Nominated by President Jimmy Carter)

- 1979 Baker v. City of Detroit (affirmative action)
- November 4, 1993 The Damon J. Keith Law Collection created at Wayne State University Law School
- 1997 Acquired senior status in the U.S. Sixth Circuit Court
- 1997 Received the Thurgood Marshall Award
- 2002 Detroit Free Press v. Ashcroft (Decision upheld by U.S. District Court, "Democracies die behind closed doors.")
- 2002 Administered oath of office to his former law clerk, Jennifer M. Granholm, as Governor of Michigan; repeated in 2006 for her second term
- 2007 Death of wife Rachel Boone Keith
- 2008 Received an honorary doctorate in law from Harvard University
- October 19, 2011 Opening of the Damon J. Keith Center for Civil Rights, Wayne State University Law School
- 2014 Publication of "Crusader for Justice: Federal Judge Damon J. Keith" by Peter J. Hammer and Trevor W. Coleman. Detroit: Wayne State University Press, 2014
- August 2014 Judge Damon J. Keith Scholars Hall opened at West Virginia State University
- June 17, 2015 "Walk with Me: The Trials of Damon J. Keith," PBS Documentary premiered at Orchestra Hall, Detroit