Judge Louis H. Pollak dedicated his legal career to the struggle for racial justice and civil rights and had a nearly lifelong relationship to LDF and our work. Following the legacy of his father, Walter Pollak, who served as counsel for the Scottsboro Boys, Judge Pollak was one of the small cohort of volunteer lawyers who assisted the late Thurgood Marshall and other LDF attorneys in preparing the briefs for Brown v. Board of Education and Bolling v. Sharpe.

After a short period in government service; private practice at Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP; and a stint as a labor lawyer; Judge Pollak distinguished himself in the legal academy. He was a professor of constitutional law, dean of Yale Law School and, later, served as dean of the University of Pennsylvania Law School. His time at Yale was marked by his work on the front lines of the Civil Rights Movement.

In 1971, Judge Pollak was elected vice-president of LDF’s Board of Directors, where he employed his significant talents and keen intellect to advance LDF’s mission: equal rights for African Americans and other people of color. Through his long-standing collaboration with LDF, Judge Pollak left an indelible mark on cases involving desegregation, sit-ins, freedom rides, voting rights, diversity in higher education, and advancing marriage equality.

He was appointed as a federal judge to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania in 1978, a post he held until his death in 2012.
The goal of the fund is to financially support summer interns who are not provided adequate summer public-interest funding through their academic institutions or other means.

Summer legal intern applicants interested in applying for The Honorable Louis H. Pollak Memorial Fund Internship at LDF should send: a cover letter; a resume; a 5-10 page writing sample; a list of three references; and an essay (no longer than 300 words) describing your commitment to and interest in civil rights, and how support from the fund would further your career in these areas.

Application materials should be sent to the address below:

Monica Garcia  
Director of Human Resources/Administration  
NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc.  
40 Rector Street, 5th Floor  
New York, NY 10006  
or  
email: interns@naacpldf.org  
website: www.naacpldf.org

*No phone calls please*
Since its founding in 1940, under the leadership of late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall, LDF has led the fight for equality and empowerment for Black people excluded from the full benefits of our democracy. Despite significant progress toward equality in the past half-century, numerous and complex obstacles remain.

LDF, through the Honorable Louis H. Pollak Memorial Fund, continues its fundamental mission to transform the promise of equality into a social, economic, and political reality for all people, and to train the next generation of civil rights lawyers.

“Since its inception, LDF has developed the nation’s finest civil rights lawyers. LDF remains the nation’s premier civil rights law organization. Our work and success has advanced democracy, equality, and justice in our country.”

Sherrilyn Ifill
President and Director-Counsel

ABOUT THE NAACP LEGAL DEFENSE AND EDUCATIONAL FUND, INC.