



Detroit lawyer at helm of bar association promises diversity

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Reginald Turner's dad was a Detroit cop.

When he was 7, Richard Turner Sr. made it clear that he wanted his young son to be a lawyer.

Reginald Turner Sr. died in 1990 but not before he witnessed many of his son's career successes.

"He was very proud of the fact that I had followed his advice to go to law school and join the legal profession," Turner said. "My mother and father were visibly moved when they came to my swearing-in ceremony in the chambers of Michigan Supreme Court Justice Dennis Archer."

Turner, 61, ascended last month to one of the most prestigious positions in the legal profession. The kid who grew up on the streets of northwest Detroit five decades ago became the president of the American Bar Association, which is the largest voluntary professional association in the world with more than 400,000 members.

The ABA promotes initiatives to improve the legal system for the public and is the national representative of the legal profession.

Oakland County Circuit Judge Denise Langford Morris, who swore Turner in as ABA president during the convention last month, said it's "the epitome of distinction to reach the presidency of the American Bar Association" and Turner brings a vast resume of experience and compassion to the role.



During his acceptance speech, Turner said the "rule of law" remains paramount.

"It remains a beacon of hope for those who do not live as free people," Turner told his colleagues. "The rule of law is what lawyers and our courts