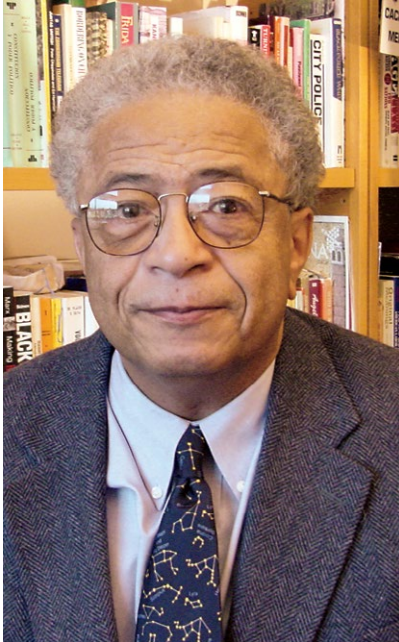


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Remembering Professor Emeritus Henry "Hank" McGee, Jr.

Dear Alumni and Friends:

It is again with a heavy heart that I share with you the unfortunate news that our beloved colleague, Professor Emeritus Henry "Hank" McGee, Jr., passed away on Sunday at the age of 91. I have reached out to Professor Victoria Kill, a former member of the Seattle University faculty and Professor McGee's spouse, to express our deepest condolences.

Professor McGee held a Bachelor of Arts degree from Northwestern University and a JD from DePaul University College of Law, where he served as editor-in-chief of the DePaul University Law Review - one of the first African American students to hold such a role in the United States. Early in his career, Professor McGee served as a prosecutor, a litigator in private practice, and as regional director for the Legal Services Program of the U.S. Office of Economic Opportunity. Professor McGee later earned an LLM from Columbia University School of Law.

In 1965, during the Freedom Summer, Professor McGee represented members of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC) who had been arrested for helping register African American voters. One of his clients was the famed civil rights activist and scholar Angela Y. Davis.

Professor McGee entered law teaching as one of the first African American faculty hires at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA) School of Law, teaching criminal law and housing law. While at UCLA, he directed the Center for Afro-American Studies. In 1994, Professor McGee assumed emeritus status at UCLA and then became a tenured professor at Seattle University School of Law, becoming our first ever tenured professor of color.

As a Fulbright Scholar, Professor McGee taught and researched across Spain. He also served as a visiting professor and scholar at notable institutions around the globe, including in the Caribbean, Mexico, Central and South America, Africa, and Europe. He also served as visiting professor at Fordham University and the University of Washington and was an Oxford University visiting fellow.

Professor McGee was a prolific scholar, in both English and in Spanish. In addition to co-authoring a casebook on housing law, he authored more than two dozen law review articles, including an especially widely cited and impactful article on displacement in Seattle's Central District. He also wrote on community development, land use and gentrification, environmental law, and other topics. He won many awards, including the Association of American Law Schools' prestigious Clyde Ferguson Award.

Upon Professor McGee's retirement from Seattle University in 2015, the Metropolitan King County Council honored Professor McGee for what it aptly characterized as "a career and life dedicated to racial and economic justice." Then-councilmember Larry Gossett wrote of Professor McGee at the time, "Hank McGee has an astounding history of five decades of being on the frontlines of civil and human rights in this country."

A talented violinist, Professor McGee performed with the Seattle Philharmonic Orchestra and served on the boards of directors of Futurewise Seattle, the Seattle Low Income Housing Institute, and The Breakfast Group. He also served on the Seattle Art Museum Development Board.

Seattle University Vice President of Diversity and Inclusion Natasha Martin, who is also a professor of law, shared that “Hank was a Renaissance man - brilliant in both civil rights lawyering, legal scholarship, and the arts.” To read more about Professor McGee’s extraordinary life and career, please refer to this profile in [Blackpast](#) and this [piece](#) by the King County government on his 2015 honor.

In Memoriam Webpage

We are gathering remembrances of Professor McGee from his former students, faculty and staff colleagues, and all others who knew and loved him. Please send them to: ProfMcGeeMemories@seattleu.edu, and we will post them on an *In Memoriam* webpage in his honor.

Memorial Service

A memorial service and celebration of Professor McGee’s remarkable life will be held in late April or early May at Seattle First Baptist Church. We will share details soon.

What an extraordinary career, and how fortunate for our Seattle University School of Law community to have counted Professor McGee amongst our dearest colleagues and friends for so many years of his remarkable life.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Tony Varona". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial 'T'.

Tony Varona
Dean and Professor of Law