

CAPLAW Board and Staff

Winston A. Ross, President
Westchester Community Opportunity Program

Patricia Steiger, Vice President
Consultant

Gale Hennessy, Treasurer
Southern New Hampshire Services

Catherine Caputo Hoskins, Secretary
Salt Lake Community Action Program

David Brightbill
Washington-Morgan Community Action

Leonard Dawson
Coastal Georgia Area CAA

Douglas Rauthe
Community Action Partnership of Northwest Montana

David Bradley, Coordinator
National Community Action Foundation

Anita Lichtblau, Esq.
Executive Director and General Counsel

Eleanor A. Evans, Esq.
Deputy Director/Senior Counsel

R. Allison Ma'luf, Esq.
Associate Counsel

Brandan Still, Esq.
Legal Fellow

Bernadette Hood
Administrative Coordinator/ Executive Assistant

Cara Loffredo
Communications Assistant

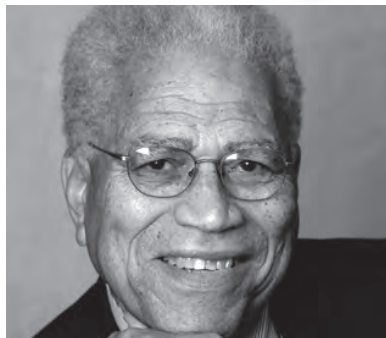
For membership information visit
www.caplaws.org. Or, call (617) 357-6915.

© 2010 Community Action Program Legal Services, Inc.

This report contains general information and is not intended to constitute legal advice.

CAPLAW
Community Action Program Legal Services, Inc.

Remembering a Leader in Community Action



This past fall, Boston and the CAA community lost a colleague, friend and leader who impacted countless lives. Robert M. Coard, recently retired President and CEO of Action for Boston Community Development, Inc. (ABCD) and founding President and board member of CAPLAW passed away November 3, 2009. Although Mr. Coard has left us, his crusade on the war on poverty will have an effect for years to come.

Mr. Coard was well-known for his ability to blur racial and political lines, bringing together people and communities to achieve a common goal. He quickly began making an impact on the Boston community when he joined ABCD in 1964, establishing neighborhood service centers, now a staple in ABCD services, and becoming Executive Director in 1968. ABCD services range from Head Start educational programs, to housing and homeless advocacy to fuel assistance, and has become a model for anti-poverty organizations everywhere.

Mr. Coard not only fought for the rights of Boston residents, but also for low-income individuals and families across the country. In 1973, Mr. Coard most notably joined the lawsuit against President Richard Nixon to save the Office of Economic Opportunity and funding for Community Action programs across the nation. "Bob has a spine of steel," said David Bradley, Executive Director of National Community Action Foundation (NCAF), as reported in the Bay State Banner. "He never, ever backed off tough decisions. What propelled Bob were these questions: How does this impact the people of Boston that depend on ABCD? How do these decisions, policies or politics impact a network of 1,000 anti-poverty agencies around the country? And how does this impact America as a society?" Mr. Coard was also very proud of his role as founding president of the Urban College of Boston, which is now an independent accredited two-year college. The Urban College provides inner-city residents a highly supportive environment that combines a college education with career preparation and skill development, preparing youth to transfer to four-year institutions to complete their bachelors degrees.

Bob Coard, along with other Community Action leaders, formed CAPLAW to assist CAAs in achieving their anti-poverty mission by providing legal services to CAAs and their local attorneys and by educating them about the rights and responsibilities of CAAs under Federal, state and local laws.

In honor of Mr. Coard's years of dedication to Community Action and development of educational opportunities, CAPLAW's Board of Directors has created the Robert M. Coard Conference Scholarship. The scholarship will be awarded to two individuals in Community Action for the 2010 CAPLAW National Training Conference. Information on how to apply for the conference scholarship can be found on the CAPLAW website, www.caplaws.org. The deadline to apply for the Robert M. Coard Conference Scholarship is May 14, 2010.

About CAPLAW

CAPLAW is a nonprofit membership organization dedicated to providing the legal resources necessary to sustain and strengthen the national Community Action Agency (CAA) network. For over 45 years CAAs have been fighting poverty, helping individuals become self-sufficient, building communities, and changing lives. Nationwide, approximately 1,000 CAAs leverage almost \$10 billion in total funding, and provide a multitude of services, including job training, Head Start, economic development, energy assistance, and housing. Through its in-house legal staff and a network of private attorneys, CAPLAW provides legal consultations, training, and publications on a wide variety of legal and management topics. This assistance enables CAAs to operate legally sound organizations and to promote the effective participation of low-income people in the planning and delivery of CAA programs and services, thereby enhancing CAAs' ability to provide the nation's poor with opportunities to improve their quality of life and to achieve their full potential.