Past MLK Luncheon Speakers

2013: Michelle Alexander
New York Times Best-Selling Author of The New Jim Crow: Mass Incarceration in the Age of Colorblindness. Michelle Alexander is a highly acclaimed civil rights lawyer, advocate, and legal scholar who currently holds a joint appointment at the Kirwan Institute for the Study of Race and Ethnicity and the Moritz College of Law at The Ohio State University. Prior to joining the Kirwan Institute, Professor Alexander was an Associate Professor of Law at Stanford Law School, where she directed the Civil Rights Clinics.

2012: Andrew Young
1996 National Freedom Award. The Honorable Andrew Young is an ordained minister, international businessman, sports enthusiast, human rights activist, published author and former public servant. Young became one of Dr. King’s principle lieutenants, and was in Memphis, Tennessee when King was shot in 1968.

2011: Julian Bond
Former Chairman Of The Board, NAACP

2010: Donna Brazile
CNN political contributor, Democratic strategist, Professor at Georgetown University

2009: Dr. Henry Louis Gates, Jr.
Professor at Harvard University, Director of W.E.B. Du Bois Institute for African & African American Research

2008: Kathleen Neal Cleaver
Senior Lecturer at Yale University, Former Communications Secretary of Black Panther Party

2007: Theodore Shaw
Director-Counsel & President, NAACP Legal Defense & Educational Fund

2006: Constance Rice
Co-Director, The Advancement Project

2005: Deborah Peterson Small
Executive Director, Break the Chains
2004: Fred D. Gray
Gray, Langford, Sapp, et al

Associate Dean, Harvard Law School

2002: Prof. David B. Wilkins
Director, Harvard Law School Program on the Legal Profession

2001: Prof. Charles Johnson
University of Washington, Pollock Professor of English

Seattle University Professor of Law

1999: Dr. Constance Rice
Deputy Director, Experience Music Project, Former North Seattle Community College President

1998: Hon. Ron Sims
King County Executive

1997: Hon. Ronald Cox
Washington State Court of Appeals

1996: James Kelly
Executive Director, Washington State Commission on African American Affairs

1995: Justice Charles Z. Smith
Washington State Supreme Court