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Black History Month: Julian Hall's impact on Bermuda's Legal System

The Bermuda legal system is a process of interpreting and enforcing laws in Bermuda. This system is based on the ordinary law legal system of England and Wales. Many lawyers and law firms contribute to the Bermuda legal system. A dynamic black hero that contributed to this system was a lawyer by the name of Julian Hall.

Julian Hall was born on March 1, 1950 in Pembroke, Bermuda. He is a part of a well-recognized family. He of Peruvian Indian, Portuguese and African Bermudian decent. He wanted to study medicine in school, so he studied Chemistry and Biology, but later on worked around his plans and ended up with a degree in psychology. He also studied law for a short period of time at the London school of Economics and Political Science. His real first start in politics happened at the age of 19 in Canada's Mount Allison University. While Julian was returning back to Bermuda, he began practicing law with Conyers Dill and Pearman. While practicing law, he got involved with the (U.B.P), which, at the time, was one of Bermuda's political parties. He later on left the U.B.P in 1979 and joined the Progressive Labor Party (PLP) in 1980. Unfortunately, that brought him problems and caused Julian to go bankrupt. After facing foreclosure on a property that he thought had a long-term financing, Julian Hall got married in 1981 and left Bermuda to work in New York, practicing Entertainment law along with running in different constituencies for the P.L.P.

Julian Hall was known by many individuals in Bermuda. He was a politician-lawyer. Before he left the United Bermuda Party (U.B.P), he assisted Lois Browne Evans in 1977 in an appeal of Buck Burrows and Larry Tacklyn the night before their execution. They had been arrested after being found guilty of the murder of Governor Sir Richard Sharples and his ADC along with the Governor's dog. The reason Julian Hall left the U.B.P was because Buck Burrows and Larry Tacklyn were hung which led to riots.

In the same year of this, Mr. Hall worked on a case called the landmark Fisher case. The landmark Fisher case was what established Julian's career. He fought for social justice for this case. The Fisher children had been removed from their school and ordered to leave Bermuda because they were born in Jamaica.

They moved to Bermuda to live with their mother who had married a Bermudian man. The Privy Council determined in 1977 that the Jamaica-born Fisher children were then entitled to Bermuda status. Julian had also won a case against the Government in the Privy Council and won rights for illegitimate children, setting a precedent still used across the Commonwealth.

Julian Hall, he won a seat in Hamilton West in 1985 but also became a PLP MP from 1989-1993. Julian Hall has had many achievements as lawyer, such as his law firm, Julian Hall and partners, that went from 1 person to seven within 2 years. Mr. Hall was also a minister in Parliament, working as the minister of Legislative Affairs and several other offices.

Although Julian has had many wonderful achievements and positions, he has also had his share of challenges. He went bankrupt but the U.B.P wouldn't let Julian continue his practice which disabled him from paying off his debts. He later on left Bermuda, however when he returned, he joined the practice of Charles Vaucrosson who agreed to pay off his debts, but unfortunately, that led to more problems. In 2005, Mr. Hall was declared bankruptcy for a second time, and this time, Mr. Vaucrosson was included as one of his creditors, along with Betty McMahon, an elderly lady that had accused him of theft. This led to him to having to appear in Supreme Court, for the theft of \$500,000. It was determined that Mr. Hall owed a total of 3 million to his various creditors and was ordered to pay \$6,000 a month.

Julian Hall was a wonderful politician-lawyer, even though he made some bad decisions. Many heroes make mistakes and do bad things, but they learn and improve. Julian Hall was that type hero, and he was a hero to many Bermudians, and he changed Bermuda for the better.