

The Amicus Curiae Brief and Historical Prospectus

A Tribute to Dr. Prezell Robinson and the University St. Augustine's

Statement of Purpose

This presentation serves a two-fold purpose. First, it is an Amicus Curiae Brief and Historical Prospectus chronicling the profound legal and historical milestones surrounding "The Shaw College At Detroit, Inc." and the merger-consolidation manifesting in the actualization of a New American University, University St. Augustine's (USA).

Second, it stands as a fitting tribute paying homage to the intelligence, guidance, and legacy of Dr. Prezell R. Robinson.

By understanding that the future must learn from the past, this prospectus outlines the planned transformation implemented to ensure equitable access to quality education for an emerging generation.

Part I: Tribute to Dr. Prezell R. Robinson

Dr. Robinson, recognizing the importance of learning from history, *embraced the Vision of Our Father's Dream*, and outlined a comprehensive transformation strategy designed to promote equitable access to high-quality education for the emerging generation known as a New American University,

"The University St. Augustine's (USA)."

This initiative aimed to address existing disparities in the educational landscape by introducing innovative programs, enhancing resources, and implementing inclusive policies. By drawing insights from past educational practices and gathering feedback from diverse communities,

The USA symbolizes the victory of light over darkness, a path to economic empowerment and a future enriched, with energy and passion of the promise to "serve the province of all people in community with dedication and loyalty" following Jesus Christ's humility".

The USA strives to create an inclusive environment that empowers every learner, regardless of their background, to thrive and succeed in an ever-evolving world.

Dr. Prezell Robinson's visionary leadership and unwavering commitment provided the strategic pathway necessary to actualize a New American University.

- Dr. Prezell R. Robinson has served as Governor of the Board of Regions for University St. Augustine's.
- He holds multiple distinguished credentials, including a Juris Doctorate, a Doctor of Divinity, and a Ph.D.
- His pivotal role and preparation as Governor of the Board of Regions for University St. Augustine's was officially authorized and commissioned in 1989.
- Dr. Robinson facilitated the crucial authorization by the Board of Directors of St. Augustine's College in Raleigh, North Carolina, to affiliate with MeHarry Allied Health Learning Center (MeHarry College, LLC | St. Augustine's University Foundation) for the implementation of the new university.
- On June 28, 1989, Dr. Robinson personally appeared before the Detroit City Council to advocate for the university's establishment.

Part II: Historical Milestones and the Legislative Ledger

The historical significance of the university's charter underscores a long-standing battle for educational equity and access. A primary objective of this enduring endeavor was to provide quality education for Black Americans, a crucial mission directly linked to the population shifts and societal needs brought about by "The Great Migration" from the South to northern industrial hubs.

- The Great Lakes Lutheran Episcopal Church University Education Charter Authority 1836, and K12 Poly-Gynasium Institute 1892 Authority, authorized.
- The Michigan Legislature authorized the issuance of the university education charter, and the Michigan Corporation Registration was perfected on February 6, 1936.
- *This specific legislative authorization predates the formal establishment of the Michigan Department of Education.*
- The charter granted the institution the expansive jurisdiction to operate throughout cities and towns in the United States and Canada.
- The institution provided a critical educational pathway for Detroit's Black and minority citizens to obtain an education beyond high school.
- This access was essential for the community, particularly because traditional avenues were limited, even though Wayne State University was already anchored in the heart of Detroit.

- **Corporate and Legal Support:** The actualization of the university was bolstered by significant outside support; notably, William Clay Ford, President and Chairman of Ford Motor Company, contributed to this historical effort by assigning his legal staff to assist in the structural organization and registration of the University St. Augustine's (MeHarry College, LLC | St. Augustine's University Foundation) corporation with the Michigan Department of Labor and Economic Growth (MI DLEG).
- The Detroit City Council issued a resolution endorsing the establishment of Saint Augustine University as a viable center of learning.
- The resolution explicitly supported the formation of the university within the former Duns Scotus facility located in Southfield, Michigan.
- Bishop Mason of the Cathedral Church of the Episcopal Diocese of Michigan formally authorized the name "Cathedral of St. Augustine's", the Fiduciary for the "University St. Augustine's."
- As expedited by Bishop Mason, the search committee and fiduciary endorsement were further facilitated by the Episcopal Diocese of Philadelphia, PA, and the Cathedral of St. Paul.

Part III: Legal Achievements and Overcoming Systemic Barriers

The journey to establish and sustain University St. Augustine's was met with profound institutional resistance, which continues to prevail in 2026, requiring significant legal intervention to protect the educational rights of minority citizens.

- The Michigan Department of Education (MDE) demonstrated an arbitrary and capricious intent to destroy MeHarry College, LLC.
- The MDE, including representative David Hanson who was later reprimanded by the Superintendent of Schools, threatened the institutional accreditation, operations, and licensing of the allied organizations, Saint Augustine College, Raleigh NC.
- These adversarial actions reflected a broader systemic threat to Black-owned schools providing post-secondary training, such as the Lewis College of Business, and defunct schools such as Marygrove College due to "White-Flight" from Metro Detroit during an era when many traditional public and private institutions prohibited the admission of Black citizens, i.e. WSU, and other Michigan public and private institutions of higher education.
- Despite these threats, legal operations and rights were protected through the courts, including findings and citations issued against the MDE for its interference.
- Legal validation and historical preservation were bolstered by proceedings such as the U.S. Court of Appeals Docket File, Case No. 85-1499.
- This pivotal appellate case involved the leadership of Chief Justice Damon Keith.
- The proceedings were also overseen by Circuit Panel Presiding Judge Julia Cook, cementing the legal foundations of the institution.

Conclusion

The legacy of "The Shaw College At Detroit, Inc." and the ensuing realization of University St. Augustine's stands as a testament to resilience.

Guided by the peerless intellect of Dr. Prezell Robinson and backed by historic legal decrees, the institution's mission to transform lives through unfettered access to quality education serves as a life line that continues to shine brightly and for generations to come.