

Joyce A. Ladner's work spans the roles of sociology professor, university president, presidential appointee, national public policy analyst, civil rights activist, and public intellectual.

Joyce Ladner is a native Mississippian. She earned her B.A. in sociology in 1964 from Tougaloo College, and her Ph.D. in sociology in 1968 from Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri

As a child she heard about the lynching of fourteen-year-old Emmett Till in Mississippi. She vowed that when she was older, she would fight against segregation and racial violence. She later coined the term, "Emmett Till Generation," to describe the spirit and substance of 1960s young people who challenged segregation and discrimination in the South, and changed the face of America. She was a founding member of the Hattiesburg, Mississippi NAACP Youth Chapter in 1959.

At Tougaloo College, Dr. Ladner was active in the civil rights movement, and in 1963 she spent a week in jail for attempting to worship at the all-white Galloway Methodist Church in Jackson, Mississippi. She was involved in voter registration throughout Mississippi and Georgia, and was an organizer of the Freedom Democratic Party and Freedom Summer.

Dr. Ladner began her university teaching career in the Howard University Department of Sociology and Anthropology in 1973. After teaching at Hunter College and the City University of New York, she returned to Howard University in 1981 as a Professor of Sociology in the School of Social Work.

In 1990, she was appointed Howard University's vice president for academic affairs, and Interim President in 1994, the first woman to hold that post.

In 1995, President Bill Clinton named Dr. Ladner to the District of Columbia Financial Control Board, which had the responsibility of bringing DC back to financial sustainability by balancing the city's budget and restructuring some of the city's agencies and departments. She was also a senior fellow in the Governance Studies Program at the Brookings Institution from 1997-2003.

In 1997, *Washingtonian Magazine* named her "Washingtonian of the Year" for her work in public school reform in the District of Columbia.

The author of seven previous books, Dr. Ladner is currently completing her memoir titled *Standing in the Gap: A Memoir of Resistance, Rebirth and Redemption*. And lastly, Dr. Ladner is the grandmother of Reggie Carrington in our Intermediate Division.

We are grateful to Dr. Ladner for serving as the Commencement speaker for the class of 2022.