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1600 PACIFIC HIGHWAY • SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA 92101 • (619)531-5544

September 13, 1991

The Honorable L. Douglas Wilder
Governor of Virginia
State Capitol
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Wilder:

I am writing to you on behalf of the judges and lawyers of the Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association of San Diego County as well as the County of San Diego to request your presence as guest speaker at the Association's Annual Installation and Awards Dinner Dance. This year's event will be held on Saturday, November 2, 1991, at the Sheraton Harbor East Hotel from 6:00 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. There will be over seven hundred attendees.

The Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association is the only organization of African-American attorneys in San Diego County. Founded in 1976, the Association is named in honor of an outstanding African-American jurist, the Honorable Earl B. Gilliam, who is the first and only African-American to sit as a United States District Court Judge for the Southern District of California.

The lawyers of Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association are extremely committed and dedicated to eliminating the root causes of racism, poverty and powerlessness in this community. To that end, over the past few years they have instituted several programs which are fast becoming models for bar associations across the country:

- The Mentor Program involves Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association members visiting predominantly African-American and Hispanic elementary, junior high and high school students in low-income neighborhoods to share their personal and professional experience with them. They hope to act as positive role models in this capacity.

Recycled paper

- The Neighborhood Law School program is a six-week course held in the Spring and Fall of each year whereby attorneys provide weekly 2-hour sessions on general legal topics impacting our community.

- The Scholarship Program provides scholarships to high school and college students with an expressed interest in the study of law.

In addition to these on-going activities, the association has recently been on the forefront of several major community issues such as the establishment of a Citizens Review Board for our Sheriff's Department, obtaining funding for the renovation of a community public library and participating in a committee to help the county redraw it's supervisorial districts to ensure effective participation of all citizens in local and state government.

I recognize that there must be countless requests for your presence at many functions. Yet, San Diego County is particularly interested in you not only because of your many legal and political accomplishments, but also because of your great stature as a strong, positive African-American role model. In a community where only 100 of the approximately 7,000 attorneys who practice in San Diego County are African-American, we think it is very important to have you address our community.

Additionally, San Diego is California's second largest county with a metropolitan area comprising over 2 million residents and is in close proximity to Los Angeles. Your visit to San Diego would be a great opportunity to "test the water", especially with California being so vital politically.

Since Earl B. Gilliam Bar Association is in the process of publicizing the affair, they must confirm the speaker as soon as possible. Please advise me of your availibility. Your prompt consideration of this invitation is greatly appreciated.

With warmest regards,

Leon L. Williams
Supervisor, Fourth District

cc:Frank Seales
Jacqueline Fritz

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