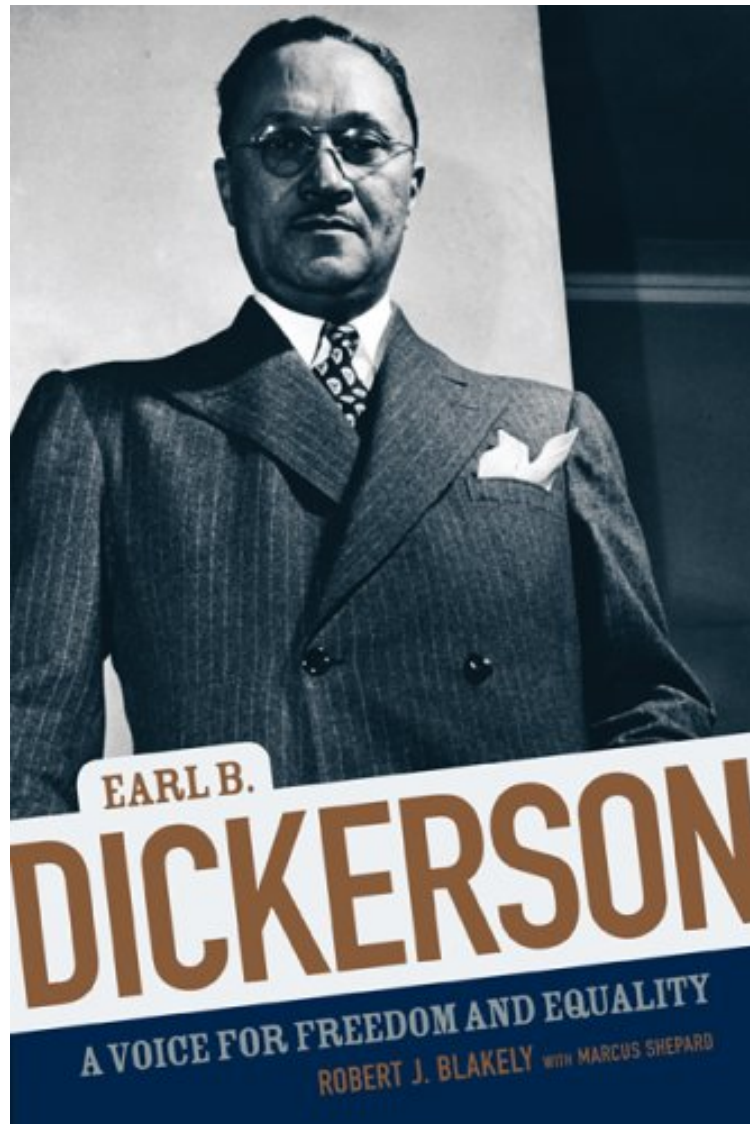


[Free download] Earl B. Dickerson: A Voice for Freedom and Equality (Chicago Lives)

Earl B. Dickerson: A Voice for Freedom and Equality (Chicago Lives)

Robert J. Blakely, Marcus Shepard
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Robert J. Blakely, Marcus Shepard : Earl B. Dickerson: A Voice for Freedom and Equality (Chicago Lives) before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Earl B. Dickerson: A Voice for Freedom and Equality (Chicago Lives):

3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. AN ACTIVIST BEFORE HIS TIME!By Ms.BeyonceEarl Dickerson is a name unknown to most civil rights activists today,but without his contributions that started nearly

eighty years ago the United States would still be "a third world country" in regards to race relations. As Chicago alderman (the first black Democrat), activist member of FDR's FEPC, member and President (1951-'54) of the progressive National Lawyers Guild (labeled "subversive" by the U.S. Attorney General and the U.S. House Un-American Activities Committee) Why is it ALL organizations that want to extend freedom, in the U.S., are labeled "RED"? Mr. Dickerson (deceased 1985) was a pioneer and visionary that ALL Americans should get to know and admire. In this excellent biography you will learn that NOT ALL opponents of expanding Civil Rights to Black Americans were Southern Democrats (Dixiecrats), and reactionary Republicans, but also so-called "liberals", who did not hesitate to use red-baiting against the wealthy businessman (insurance and the law). In the name of anti-communism many sins have been committed by the U.S. government at home and abroad. A worthy addition to any serious student of recent U.S. history, especially anyone wanting to know more regarding the Civil Rights and Civil Liberties battles of the twentieth-century. You will also learn a lot about the ins and outs of Chicago politics, by reading this book. *Gideons Army* (3 vol. Marzani and Munsell) by the late NU professor of Journalism Curtis MacDougall is an invaluable contribution in getting a look at Illinois, and in general, U.S. leftwing politics in the late 1940s. This book came out in the middle 1960s, it MAY still be available. The role of the U.S. Communist Party, in the Henry Wallace campaign for President in 1948, of which Mr. Dickerson was a supporter, is fully discussed by Prof. MacDougall, who also was a Wallace backer. In the '48 elections Illinois Democrats made sure that FDR's former Vice President WAS NOT on the ballot. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Chicago's finest Nuptial By Kurupt Earl B Dickerson is to the Nuptial as Thurgood Marshall is to the Alphas. This is a well written book that displays how another Black man (besides DuSable) had a great influence on how Chicago was developed. Lawyer, Activist, millionaire, and one of the founders of my beloved "Greater" Beta chapter makes Earl B one of the most powerful black men in history. Men like this need more exposure to the masses so that more young black men will have an idol/ role model to pattern themselves after. This is a book that is not only good for black history but is also a very good history of Chicago. Highly recommended!!!!!!! 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A life that helped to transform Chicago By Gary T. Johnson If you want to deepen your understanding of the forces that transformed Chicago during the twentieth century, begin with this excellent biography. Longevity is one reason: Dickerson's life spanned 1891 to 1986. He first arrived in Chicago from Mississippi in 1907 -- nine years before historians date the beginning of the Great Migration. His list of affiliations is another: board member of the national NAACP, President of the Chicago Urban League almost continuously from 1939-1955, and member of President Franklin Roosevelt's first Fair Employment Practices Commission, among many other posts. All of these are notable, but what makes Dickerson's life so illuminating is that he was a moving force in so many different sectors. Yes, lawyers are often aldermen, and lawyers sometimes are businessmen, but how many insurance company executives have been civil rights activists? Dickerson was all of these, and he also handled a landmark case before the U.S. Supreme Court: *Hansberry v. Lee*. This 1940 decision ended racially restrictive covenants on Chicago's South Side.

Recipient of 2007 The Hyde Park Historical Society Paul Cornell Award At fifteen, Earl Burrus Dickerson stowed away on a train in Canton, Mississippi, fleeing the racial oppression of his native South. But Chicago, the boy's destination, was no haven of racial fairness and equality. His flight north was in fact the beginning of a journey that would last a lifetime--and would forever pit Dickerson against the forces of racial injustice. Earl B. Dickerson's story, told here for the first time, is one of courage and character, of remarkable accomplishment in the face of terrible odds; it is also emblematic of the twentieth-century struggle for civil rights--a crucial chapter of African American history as it was lived by one uncompromising individual. In this book, Robert J. Blakely tells how Dickerson (1891-1986) worked his way through preparatory schools and college, a segregated officer's training school, and law school at the University of Chicago. The story follows Dickerson's career as general counsel to the first insurance company owned and operated by African Americans; the first African American Democratic alderman elected to the Chicago City Council; a member of FDR's first Fair Employment Practices Committee; leader of the movement that broke the color barrier to membership in the Illinois Bar Association; and, perhaps most famously, the power behind *Hansberry v. Lee*, the U.S. Supreme Court case that marked the beginning of the end of restrictive real estate covenants--one of the most pernicious legal tools of segregation in the North. Blakely gives us a sense of the man behind the achievements, the life that defied conventions and statistics, and the world in which "the dean of Chicago's black lawyers" became a pioneering architect for equal opportunity in American life.

From Publishers Weekly This biography sheds welcome light on the man who sat to the left of Martin Luther King at the 1963 March on Washington. The first black graduate of the University of Chicago Law School and the first black alderman elected to the Chicago City Council, Dickerson arrived in the Windy City at age 15, as a stowaway on the Illinois Central Railroad. Finding the racial situation in Chicago pretty similar to the one he'd left behind in Mississippi, Dickerson spent the rest of his long and active life working toward its improvement. A man of prodigious energy, he was known as the "Dean of Chicago's Black Lawyers" (most notably, arguing *Hansberry v. Lee* in 1940; a harbinger of the end of racially restrictive covenants) and also became president of one of the largest black-owned

insurance companies in America. While Blakely details Dickerson's major political and business accomplishments, he adds dimension to the man's life and gives the reader a keen sense of the African-American social and cultural history through his attention to Dickerson's involvement in Chicago's South Side. Though pedestrian in its prose style, Blakely's straightforward biography makes a meaningful contribution to African-American and Chicago history. (Mar.) Copyright Reed Business Information, a division of Reed Elsevier Inc. All rights reserved. From Booklist Dickerson's life as social activist, history-making lawyer, and successful businessman reflects the complex, if not paradoxical, role of this individual's struggle for social and racial equality during most of the twentieth century. Among his many "first Negro" achievements: graduation from the University of Chicago Law School, second lieutenant during World War I, founding member of the American Legion, and head of the National Lawyer's Guild. Yet, his primary focus remained a quest to achieve social and racial equality for all Americans. Paradoxically, he was affiliated with the Democrats and Republicans; he was a socialist and yet for 60 years was the general counsel, president, and chairman of the premier black life insurance company in America. But it is within Dickerson's commitment to principles associated with securing social and racial equality that these apparent conflicts reveal an exceptional man, pursuing ideals with action and not mere words. Vernon Ford Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "This biography sheds welcome light on the man who sat to the left of Martin Luther King at the 1963 March on Washington. Blakely's straightforward biography makes a meaningful contribution to African-American and Chicago history." --Publishers Weekly