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Amanda
Seales on
Confronting
Injustice**

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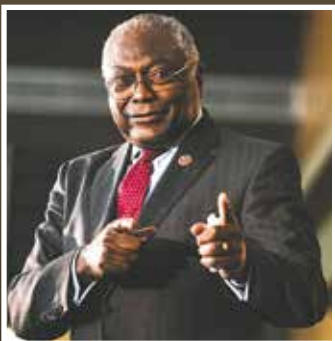
A Data News Weekly Exclusive

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Judy Reese Morse

President and CEO of Urban League of Louisiana

*Data News Weekly Exclusive Interview with
New Leader of Historic Civil Rights Organization*

Edwin Buggage
Editor, Data News Weekly

Introducing Judy Reese Morse: President and CEO of The Urban League of Louisiana

For eight decades The National Urban League have been on the frontlines fighting the righteous fight for justice and equality for African-Americans. Its local affiliate the Urban League of Louisiana, has had a long and storied history of great leadership. And now a new name can now be added to this list as they've recently named Judy Reese Morse, its President and CEO.

Coming from a family dedicated to service, she is the daughter of Freedom Rider and Local Civil Rights Icon Claude Reese. She comes to the Urban League with a career of more than two decades of service to others. Before joining the Urban League of Louisiana, Morse served for eight years in city government in three roles: Deputy Mayor/Chief of Staff, Deputy Mayor/City-wide Initiatives and Deputy Mayor/Chief Administrative Officer from 2010 to 2018. Prior to joining city government, Morse worked at the state level as Chief of Staff in the Office of the Lieutenant Governor from 2004 to 2010. She's also spent over a decade working in Washington DC before returning to Louisiana.

"It is an honor to serve as President and CEO of the Urban League of Louisiana. I have had a lot of great professional experiences in my career, but this is very special," says Morse of her new post. "I am grateful to

be chosen and excited to be working with our teams in New Orleans and in Baton Rouge. I look forward to working with our many partners, but most importantly the people who benefit from the services and programs of the Urban League in Louisiana."

Centers of Excellence

In her role as President and CEO, Morse leads and oversees the work of three Centers of Excellence focused on the core mission of the Urban League of Louisiana: equity, social justice and advocacy, economic and workforce development and education and youth development. "The work this organization does is very impactful, and I plan to build on that."

Continuing she says speaking of their dedication to uplifting the community, "We work with partners in workforce development to create opportunities that are sustainable, so our residents can take care of their families."

Speaking of their upcoming job fair Morse says, "We are having an event at the Hilton Riverside on Sept. 26, 2018 from 10AM to 4PM where individuals can come out and meet with prospective employers. But this is only one of many events we have throughout the year. We are making a long-term investment in attempting to empower our people."

Civil Rights Legacy and the Fight for Equity and Equality

Judy Reese Morse grew with a freedom fighter inside her home and has carried on this legacy, not with sit-ins but advocating



Judy Reese Morse, President and CEO of Urban League Louisiana.

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P.O. Box 57347, New Orleans, LA 70157-7347 | Phone: (504) 821-7421 | Fax: (504) 821-7622
editorial: datanewseditor@bellsouth.net | advertising: datanewsad@bellsouth.net

Terry B. Jones	Contributors	Art Direction & Production
CEO/Publisher	Edwin Buggage	Pubinator.com
Edwin Buggage	Brandon Brown	Editorial Submissions
Editor	Jared Braud	datanewseditor@bellsouth.net
Cheryl Mainor	Kimani Hamilton	Advertising Inquiries
Managing Editor	Kelsey Green	datanewsad@bellsouth.net
Calla Victoria	Stacy M. Brown	bellsouth.net
Executive Assistant	Jeffrey L. Boney	Distribution
June Hazeur	Julianne Malveaux	On The Run
Accounting	Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.	Courier Services
	The National Fried	
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for access to opportunities that foster equity and equality.

"Claude Reese is my father and I love him dearly beyond whatever I can say in words," she states with pride and admiration. "Both as a daughter and an individual for the sacrifices he made for African-Americans in this city and in this state. He often said, 'Until all of us are saved, none of us are saved.' He would say it all the time and it stuck with me and it forces you to think about others."

ganizations that worked around issues of equity."

Talking about a solution-based approach, Morse says, "Much of this speaks to the issues of fairness and justice. With the solutions lying in how the government, business and not-for-profit sector can work together taking a look at the disparities that exist and address them by working towards equity that will lead to equality. This would mean everyone can start out in the same

people help the Urban League of Louisiana in its mission, "We are a membership organization, having people join is always a good strong start. There are 3 ways people can help in the mission. For a nominal amount they can join the Young Professionals, they can join the Guild if they are over 40, or if they had some experience and want to put some of that to use to advocate for the various issues we work on."

Noting that anyone can become a

ties. We have an amazing culture. We need to build a city and state where people are coming from other places and want to live here, or if they are from here want to stay, or if they leave they want to return. I see something very exciting and dynamic, a time where everybody in the state know prosperity can be an option for everyone. And this goes beyond your race or geography that you have a chance to be prosperous. I think the future is very exciting."

"Urban League has benefitted from great leadership from Erika for 5 years," giving praise to the work of McConduit. Continuing she says, "I tell you what she's done everyone should be very proud of. She left the organization financially sound. She also left it with a stronger brand and partners with a focus on education and that was needed after Hurricane Katrina. She created many new initiatives and brought in new corporate sponsors. She's left the organization of very



Judy Reese Morse is the daughter of local Civil Rights Leader Claude Reese. Speaking of her father and his influence on her she says, "He often said, 'Until all of us are saved, none of us are saved.' He would say it all the time and it stuck with me and it forces you to think about others."



Morse says there are 3 ways people can help support the mission of the Urban League of Louisiana. "For a nominal amount they can join the Young Professionals, they can join the Guild if they are over 40, or if they had some experience and want to put some of that to use to advocate for the various issues we work on we also welcome that as well."



The core mission of the Urban League of Louisiana is advocating for equity, social justice, economic and workforce development and education and youth development. "The work this organization does is very impactful and I plan to build on that," says Morse.



L-R. Son Trey Morse, father local Civil Rights Icon Claude Reese, Judy Reese Morse and husband Chuck Morse.

Continuing speaking of her father and his influence on her she says, "My father, Claude Reese was a Civil Rights Freedom Rider and Member of the New Orleans Branch of Congress of Racial Equality (CORE). He did several freedom rides and sit-ins at lunch counters in the fight for desegregation. Growing up with my father I definitely understand the struggle for Civil Rights and how important it was and more importantly how important it still is today."

Speaking about today's Civil Rights Movement she says, "Today Civil Rights is about equity. I learned a lot about this when I worked in city government, the work I have done with national or-

place, and from there we can have an opportunity to build the future where more of our people can prosper."

Partnerships and Empowerment

The National Urban League and its affiliate, the Urban League of Louisiana is an organization that has its fingers on the pulse of the issues that affect the African-American community and has recently expanded its reach to others in need. This is work that cannot be done without its many partners and people in the community who join the organization.

A fact not lost on Judy Reese Morse when asked how can

member and that in December they will hold a public meeting and are inviting people from the community to hear what the Urban League of Louisiana are working on for 2019.

She says that working with partners in the community is also a way to learn how the organization can fine tune its focus on issues that impact the community. "We take the opportunity talking with our members to listen and learn. This creates channels so that we are engaging and amplifying their voice and contribute to the narrative."

Continuing she says speaking optimistically about the future of the city and state, "We have the potential to make our city and state a greater place with more opportuni-

Passing the Torch of Leadership: The Sky is the Limit for the Urban League of Louisiana and its Mission of Creating Equity and Fighting for Justice

Judy Reese Morse is inheriting an Urban League of Louisiana that's been built up and reaching new height under its prior President and CEO Erika McConduit. In addition, Judy Reese Morse has been in constant contact with Nation Urban League President, Marc Morial, who is also the former Mayor of New Orleans. These amicable relationships are something that will help the Urban League of Louisiana reach new plateaus in its mission according to its new President.

solid footing."

Speaking of NUL President Marc Morial she says, "We also benefit from having the National President that understands the city because this is not only his home, but he was the mayor for 8 years. I have had many conversations with him and he has pledged his full support of my leadership and things I want to bring to the Urban League of Louisiana. I feel we are in a very special place at a very special time and our organization and it has a lot to build on and with all the talented people we have as well as our Board of Directors. With all these pieces in place I believe the sky is the limit for what we can do."

OP-ED: Jim Clyburn for Speaker of the House

By Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr.
President and CEO, NNPA

Washington, DC — No one questions the fact that for the past six decades, African-Americans have overwhelmingly supported and voted for Democratic Party candidates for the United States Congress. In the upcoming 2018 mid-term elections, African-Americans by the millions will once again cast the clear majority of their votes for Democratic Party candidates for governors and members of the U.S. Senate and U.S. House of Representatives.

The mission of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), representing the Black Press of America, is to report the news and to be an advocate for freedom, justice and equality for Black America and for all others who stand in opposition to racism and economic inequality and cry out for a better quality of life.

Last week, during the Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Conference in Washington, DC, the NNPA awarded Congressman James E. Clyburn (D-SC) our 2018 National Leadership Award



Congressman James E. Clyburn (D-SC)

for outstanding service and commitment to equality and justice.

From time to time, it is our mandate and responsibility to express

our collective editorial opinion about the interests of the 47 million African-Americans who strive to empower, sustain, protect, and care for our families and communities.

It is, therefore, appropriate for me to support and express, on behalf of the 220 Black-owned newspapers and media companies affiliated with the NNPA across the nation, that Congressman Jim Clyburn should be the next Speaker of the House of Representatives.

During this time of renewed civic and political fervor for a more progressive, inclusive and diverse democracy in the United States, it is past-due time that Jim Clyburn should be given the opportunity to lead the U.S. Congress as Speaker of the House.

Clyburn is uniquely qualified to be the Speaker and his timely elevation to this historic and vitally important position will help put to rest the widespread notion that the Democratic Party takes African American votes for granted.

Given the current increased racial divide and regional polarizations in this regressive era of President Donald Trump, there is no better prepared member of the U.S. Congress than Jim Clyburn, with his base in rural and urban South Carolina, to help lead the House of Representatives forward.

Jim began public service as a

college student fighting for equal rights and fair treatment alongside John Lewis in the Student Non-violent Coordinating Committee (SNCC), of which they were founding members. I have known Clyburn since those transformative days in the 1960's when young student leaders of SNCC and the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC), led by Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., advanced the enactment and fulfillment of civil rights.

Clyburn served as Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC) Foundation's Annual Legislative Conference for both Sessions of the 104th Congress. In the 105th Congress, he was unanimously elected Chair of the CBC.

As CBC Chair, Jim successfully led the effort to desegregate the U.S. Court of Appeals for the 4th Circuit. Clyburn successfully engaged the GAO to conduct a study of restorations and preservation needs at Historically Black Colleges and Universities, which led to comprehensive legislation to preserve and restore historic buildings on HBCU campuses across the country. The House recently appropriated another \$8 million to continue this effort. He has helped the caucus develop legislation to restore the protections of the Voting Rights Act and expand access to the ballot, and

recently led the fight to defend the Affordable Care Act.

In 2002, Jim was elected Vice Chair of the House Democratic Caucus. He was elected Chair in 2005, Majority Whip in 2006, and Assistant Democratic Leader in 2010. In every capacity he has been inclusive and selfless. In addition, as Whip, he chaired the House Democratic Task Force on Hurricane Katrina, shepherding numerous bills into law, contributing to the rebuilding of New Orleans and the Gulf Coast.

Today, as Assistant Leader, Clyburn has earned the respect of Democrats on Capitol Hill as well as throughout the country. Jim also has helped to raise significant amounts of money for numerous Democratic candidates.

Every August Jim and his wife, Emily – whom he met in jail during one of his SNCC incarcerations – host a Health Fair, Food Bank, Back-to-School bash and Scholarship Banquet for families and communities along the I-95 corridor. This year they awarded \$250,000 in cash, laptops and software packages to 127 needy, college-bound students, resulting in a total of \$4.9 million in student aid their Foundation has awarded to students over more than 30 years. This effort by the Clyburns precedes Jim's outstanding congressional service.

In conclusion, in America's 233 years as a republic, we have never had an African-American Speaker of the House. The time has now come for serious consideration. The mid-term elections are only a few weeks away. We will be voting in record numbers and after the November 6, 2018 elections results are reported, there will be new opportunities and responsibilities to reorganize the newly elected U.S. Congress.

African-Americans continue to be a major determinative component of the current resurgence of the Democratic Party and are key to winning and maintaining a new majority in the U.S. Congress. Simply put, we are very tired of hearing, "Wait your turn." It is our turn. We demand respect and accountability for our longstanding and solid support of the Democratic Party. Elect Jim Clyburn Speaker of the House.

Dr. Benjamin F. Chavis, Jr. is President and CEO of the National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA). He can be reached at drb.chavis@nnpa.org.

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Climate Change Impacts State, African Americans Most, Experts Say

By Jared Braud
Data News Weekly
Contributor

Climate change is one of the biggest problems facing the planet today. The State of Louisiana is at ground zero when it comes to climate change. Louisiana has had nearly 2,000 square miles disappear along the coast in recent years. Racism also plays a role in the changes to communities, because residents who live in vulnerable places are often people of color. The Deep South Center for Environmental Justice has been working to solve this issue since it started in 1992, particularly looking at the ways in which climate change affects communities of color in the South.

"We recognize that we not only rebuild our homes, but we must bring people along to be able to touch those who have been impacted," said Mayor LaToya Cantrell on post-Katrina rebuilding, as she addressed this matter at the 6th Annual HBCU Climate Change Conference, held jointly by Dillard and Xavier from Sept. 20th-23rd.

Cantrell made her remarks on Sept. 20th at Xavier revisiting how many citizens of New Orleans still remain affected by Hurricane Katrina. Recently, Ninth Ward residents sued Actor Brad Pitt's Make it Right Foundation for selling them poorly constructed sustainable homes that have begun to decay and become overrun with mold. In many cases, businesses often buy residents out of their homes, gentrifying neighborhoods. And other industrial companies have been the source of excess waste dumping excess from chemical plants next to low-income communities of color. The community will need to band together to let corporate interests know that this problem will no longer be ignored, Cantrell said. Her administration will work with community advocates to ensure these practices end, she said.

African-Americans are 30 percent more likely to be exposed to air within their communities and 75 percent of African-Americans live near industrial plants, above the US average, said Robert Bullard, the Director of the Environmental Justice Resource Center, and a Professor at Texas Southern University, who co-facilitated the HBCU



"Dr. Robert Bullard, Dr. Benjamin Chavis, and another speaker show that the past affects the future by celebrating the life of Damu Smith."

Climate Change Conference.

"We must use this opportunity to make a difference and use our education as liberation," Bullard said.

Xavier's President C. Reynold Verret described Bullard as being one of the first people to coin the phrase "environmental injustice." Bullard's 1990 book, "Dumping Dixie," explains how citizens, mainly citizens of color, suffer from poor health from waste dumped near their communities. People most impacted must be in the room when decisions are being made, Bullard said. Residents living in low-lying communities have a higher chance of being diagnosed with certain illnesses that affect the heart and lungs, Bullard's work notes.


NNPA President, Dr. Benjamin Chavis, Jr., received the Damu Smith Award, named after this peace activist, at the conference and told stakeholders that injustice is not something to be taken lightly. Smith was the Founder of Black Voices for Peace and the National Black Environmental Justice Network. Chavis explained that injustice was created out of greed and that others should not make a profit at the expense of human life.

"If Dr. King were here today, he would ask what qualifies as environmental injustice," Chavis said. "As one of his famous quotes goes, 'A threat to justice anywhere, is a threat to justice everywhere,' Cha-

vis said. Environmental Justice is now a part of social justice in keeping with Dr. King's vision, Chavis explained, because humanity now requires the well-being of all communities and that is part of the social struggle.

The HBCU Climate Change Conference carries as its motto: "Fighting For Our Lives." The city pledged to do its part under a new administration, Cantrell said, by placing pallets within the neutral ground around the City of New Orleans. These pallets restructured for plant materials that will receive water and retain it to reduce flooding.

Experts say it will take more than just activists and officials to address Environmental Justice. It's not just the work of environmentalists, but all citizens must get involved in this fight. "Fighting for our lives is not a front," Bullard said.




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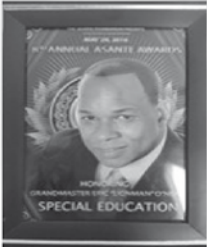
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GEO@LIONMANFoundation.org
info@BLUELIONKarate.com

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Actress Inspires to Confront Injustice Wherever it Appears

By Kimani Hamilton
Data News Weekly Contributor

Just like every other girl, a young Amanda Seales had big dreams for herself. Her plans for her life may not have turned out the way that she expected, but little did she know that what she thought would break her, actually made her the woman that she is today.

"I went to school in New York at SUNY Purchase for Undergrad for Acting and I was asked to leave the conservatory at the end of my freshman year," said Actress, Amanda Seales, as she spoke to the students at Xavier University of Louisiana on Sept. 19, 2018. Seales currently stars as Tiffany DuBois on HBO's *Insecure*.

Many African-Americans remember the isolation and racism they have experienced in school, and for Seales it was no different. She attended the Acting Conservatory at SUNY, Purchase, a Liberal Arts College in New York. The school only chose 25 applicants out of 2,500 applications a year, she said. When Seales first got to the school, they actually had lowered the number and there were only 20 students in her first-year acting class.

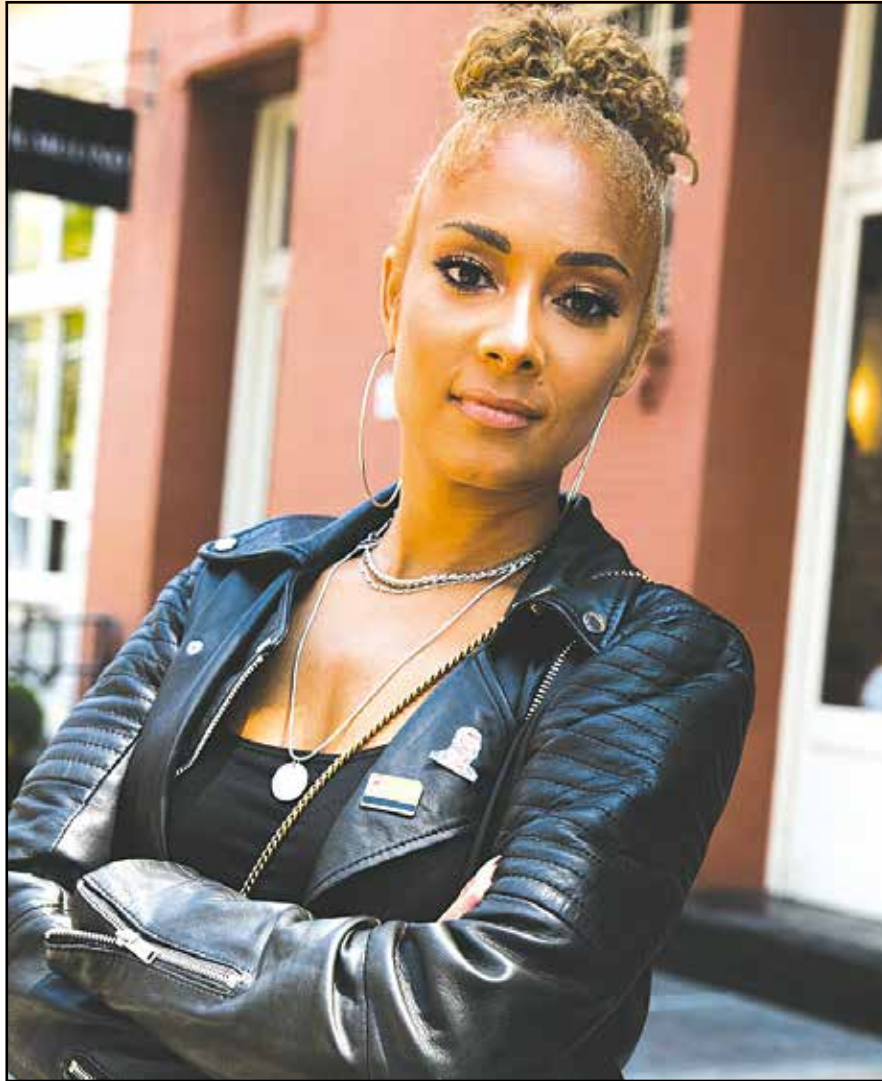
"I was the only Black woman in my class and I was 18," Seales said.

This was her dream school. At that time, it was the second-best acting school in the nation. Julliard was the first. She was a straight-A student for the first three semesters. To make their program more exclusive, every year the school would cut students from the program, she recalled.

Seales described a time in class where her teacher made the class line up in two rows and choose to be an animal. A young Black man in her class chose to be a lion. When he began to imitate a lion, Seales said she recalled the instructor started laughing. The teacher then made a racist comment toward the African-American student. Seales remember not feeling accepted in this place.

"It's all well and good for us to complain and then leave, but the problem is that when we complain and leave, not only have we done ourselves a disservice, we do a disservice to the people we've left in our wake," Seales said.

Before landing a role on *Insecure*, Seales played roles on *Freedomland*, *Cop and a Half*, and *Ladies Book Club*. She hosted truTV's *Greatest Ever* and was a co-host on MTV's *Hip Hop POV*.



Actress, artist, musician, comedian and podcast hostess Amanda Seales.



Actress Amanda Seales of HBO's *Insecure* has intimate chat about her journey with Xavier students on Sept. 19, 2018 (Photo by Kimani Hamilton)

Complaints mean nothing if there is no change being made. Seales reminded the students that everything is not all just about them.

"There's actually action that you have to take in order to see reaction. There's actually moves that you have to take to

create a movement," Seales said.

She had other tough lessons while in school. Another young man told an instructor that Seales was listening to her headphones while she was in class. The instructor took that as an opportunity to get the young actress kicked out

of the school, Seales said, and she was successful at doing so. They asked her to take a year off, but Amanda did not let that stop her. She attended college somewhere else.

"So, when you're in school you wanna curate your experience to the best of your ability because this is going to set you up when you get out of here in so many ways other than just what you're learning in class," Seales said. "It's also teaching you how to decide what's best for you and how things work for you when people in the space around you aren't necessarily thinking about you that way."

Her story didn't end there. She received her master's from Columbia University in African-American studies, which shaped the work she does today in media. The actress decided to tell her story to the students at Xavier because she was very close to allowing her life to be determined by people who do not have her best interest in mind. She said she wanted students to know that they are not the only ones who have issues with their professors. Seales reminded them that they have power and responsibility. They are among a group of individuals who are privileged to get an education because not everyone has that opportunity, she said.

"There's a reason why they say knowledge is power. Because once you have it, you are now a step ahead of anybody else," Seales said. "And with power comes great responsibility."

Her conversation impacted the audience and encouraged them to be the change that they wanted to see on campus, in the community, and in the world.

"Always stand up for what you believe in. Always support each other. Especially in the Black community," said Kelsey Green, Miss Xavier 2018-2019.

"Xavier University is one of the most prominent HBCU's in the nation and we have a reputation to keep up with, so we have to lift each other up," Green said.

Seales visit stirred students to want to take a stand and make a change. Students said they will not only just listen to Seales' words, but they will work to make their campus and this community a better place.

"I realize that we all have the capacity to call out injustice in our lives and we can't afford not to," said Cleopatra Singleton, a Political Science major at Xavier.

New Orleans' National Fried Chicken Festival Highlights

Photos Courtesy of The National Fried Chicken Festival

There's nothing like fried chicken, and nobody does it better than we do in New Orleans. That's what makes the National Fried Chicken Festival such a fan favorite to attend. Besides mouth-watering chicken, fried every way you can think of, the festival also included a fantastic stage with music to rock to while attendees enjoyed the delicious food. We can't wait for next year's festival, because you know, where there is good food and good music, Data will always be there!



Visit www.ladatanews.com for more photos from these events

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The Pernicious Power of Patriarchy



Julianne Malveaux
NNPA Columnist

Our nation, these United States, is founded on the principles of racism and patriarchy. They are reflected in our very constitution, where enslaved persons were counted as a fraction of a person and only men of property were allowed the right to vote. The filthy inequality at the foundation of this nation has now bubbled up and boiled over, polluting

ing every aspect of our lives.

Patriarchy places men at the center of life and women at the periphery. It suggests that women do not matter. It allows for the subjugation of women when they attempt to enter public spaces that have previously been earmarked as “male” spaces.

Thus, there were no restrooms for women legislators in the U.S. House or Senate, even as women entered those spaces. They were only created when women demanded them. Of course, restrooms are just a minor manifestation of the hegemonic patriarchy that rules our nation.

A great picture of our nation’s racist patriarchy was the visual of doughty and dissipated white men interrogating the amazingly com-

“Privileged white male culture allows a man who should not have been elected President to denigrate women on a regular basis. We are ‘fat,’ ‘dogs’ and ‘liars.’”

posed Anita Hill as she reviewed her experiences with now Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas. Though Hill was persuasive, she

was attacked in the vilest of terms, accused of nonsense like “erotomania,” and even recently harassed by Thomas’ unhinged spouse who

was still seeking apology after two decades. Note to Thomas: take the phone from your wife when her meds are not working.

In any case, Thomas is on the Supreme Court because white men chose to disregard the word of a Black woman — a decision that then-Senator Joe Biden says he now regrets. Thomas was confirmed by the narrowest margin in history 52-48.

Here we go again.

By the time this is published the matter of 45’s Supreme Court nominee Brett Kavanaugh may be resolved but the issue of pernicious patriarchy will not be.

Regarding Kavanaugh, he has been accused by Dr. Christine Bla-

Commentary, Continued on page 9.

Vote 2018 – America is on the Ballot



Jeffrey L. Boney
NNPA Newswire Contributor

The 2018 midterm elections are nearly upon us.

The United States of America, in 2018, is at a major crossroads and there is too much at stake to simply ignore the importance of this critical election.

If ever there was a time to vote, that time is now. And while there will be many candidates whose names will appear on ballots across this country, it is actually the future of the United States of America that is the most important thing on the ballot this November.

These important midterm elections are shaping up to be some of the most important elections in modern times. The results of these midterm elections will not only determine the makeup of Congress, but they will also shape the overall future of this country.

The current president has single-handedly emboldened the worst elements of society to openly express

their racist views and bigotry in ways that have not been blatantly seen in America since the days of the Civil Rights struggle.

The current administration has shined a light on the darkness of racism and bigotry that has long been ignored and swept under the rug in this country. The divisive rhetoric and activity that this current administration has boldly encouraged, has now trickled down to many cities and states across this country, which is why voting in local and state elections is so important.

“All politics is local” is a popular political saying that is most often associated with former Democratic House Speaker Thomas P. “Tip” O’Neill, Jr. When you think about the phrase in itself, it makes sense that the things that impact you the most take place on the local level.

Taxation without representation is a horrible position to be in. The President of the United States, whoever that elected person may be, plays an important role in what affects Black people, but the president can only do so much. All of the key decisions and pieces of legislation that impact Black people on a daily basis are made by individuals who are elected by regular citizens at the local, county and state levels of government. Those who are elected to office by regular citizens,

then have the ability to appoint people to other key positions, as well as enact laws that will undoubtedly affect the quality of life of everyone, including those who didn’t vote.

The detrimental outcome of Black people choosing to completely disengage from the political process and choosing not to vote is a costly one. A non-vote is still relevant and just as powerful as if a vote were actually cast. President Donald J. Trump understood that, and expressed his sincere gratitude for a great majority of Black people choosing not to come out and vote in 2016.

Over the past few decades, the number of Blacks choosing to stay home and not vote, coupled with the Black vote being constantly targeted by voter suppression tactics, has contributed to the election of many individuals who have not had the best interest of African Americans in mind.

This November, Black people must take voting and politics seriously if they are going to see collective changes in their communities, in their social status and in their daily lives.

At the recent Congressional Black Caucus Annual Legislative Summit, Reverend Dr. William Barber challenged the attendees at the annual Phoenix Awards Dinner to step up and vote.

“We are called to be the conscious of this nation,” said Rev. Barber. “Our vision has to be bigger than Trump. We have to come together to change the course of our nation. You better know who you are when you are under assault. We cannot fail to be who we are. We must vote.”

Again, Black people need not downplay the significance of these upcoming midterm elections in November. While the races for Congress and the various governorships across the country are extremely important, there are many down ballot races that are even more important and should not be ignored, as they will impact the daily lives of Black people for years to come.

Whether it is the judge who has the power to sentence your loved one to a lengthy prison sentence or the judge who is responsible for dealing with a lawsuit or the judge who has the power to determine what your child support payments and visitation rights look like through the family court – one or more of these Black women could very well be elected in a position that will impact your life in some shape, form or fashion in the very near future.

The same applies to all of the other important local and state races across the country.

All elections, especially local elections, are too important to overlook and ignore.

The National Newspaper Publishers Association (NNPA), which represents over 200 Black-owned media companies across the U.S., has been focused on registering 5 million, new Black voters before the midterm elections and is working collaboratively with other national organizations relative to increasing Black voter turnout.

It is time for Black people to dig in, get in the fight and embrace their precious right to vote, which was paid for with a hefty price. More importantly, the fight to protect those precious voting rights is still being fought on a daily basis by those who understand the struggle to make a difference through politics and public policy. It is not the time to embrace non-voting. It is not the time to make a conscious decision to stay at home and avoid casting a ballot in 2018.

It is time to VOTE, because America is on the Ballot in 2018!

Jeffrey Boney is a political analyst for the NNPA Newswire and BlackPressUSA.com and the associate editor for the Houston Forward Times newspaper. Jeffrey is an award-winning journalist, dynamic, international speaker, experienced entrepreneur, business development strategist and founder and CEO of the Texas Business Alliance. Follow Jeffrey on Twitter @realtalkjunkies.

Walmart Associates in Louisiana To Receive Approximately \$3.84 Million in Cash Bonuses

Louisiana bonuses are portion of more than \$200 million earned nationwide in Q2

NEW ORLEANS – Sept. 21, 2018 – Recently, more than 915,000 Walmart U.S. hourly associates received a share of more than \$200 million in cash bonuses based on their stores' Q2 performance. The bonuses were included in associate's Sept. 6 paycheck.

Walmart associates earn quarterly bonuses as part of an overall incentive plan designed to reward associates whose stores achieve

sales and customer service goals. In total, associates across Louisiana earned \$3.84 million in Q2 bonuses.

These bonuses come on the heels of the best performance for Walmart U.S. in more than 10 years-- with comp sales growth (excluding fuel) of 4.5 percent -- along with an increase in customer traffic of more than two percent.

"Our associates' dedication to their job and community is why customers always come back to Walmart," said Jim Winchester, Walmart regional manager. "They are constantly working to improve the retail experience for customers and their hard work is why Walmart continues to be the top retailer in the nation."

The recent strong sales and traffic figures build on the posi-

tive momentum of the U.S. business, which has enabled a positive local impact across Louisiana through associate bonuses, wage increases and innovation and improvement to stores, among other investments.

In January, Walmart announced plans to increase the starting wage for all hourly associates in the U.S. to at least \$11, expand maternity and parental leave ben-

efits, and provide a one-time cash bonus for eligible associates of up to \$1,000. Walmart also recently announced a commitment to train and develop one million associates over the next five years and introduced a new education benefit for associates, which includes free college credit for on-the-job training and options for associates to earn a college degree without incurring student loan debt.

Commentary, Continued from page 8.

sey Ford of sexual assault form more than 35 years ago, when both were teens. She disclosed her accusations in a letter that California Senator Dianne Feinstein received in July, but did not share with the FBI until later, mainly because Ford asked for confidentiality.

Ford has requested that the FBI investigate her assertions, yet the Senate Judiciary committee is still fast-tracking their vote on Kavanaugh. The outcome, while necessary, is not the bottom line. The issue is the way that racist patriarchy makes some offensive and illegal behavior acceptable.

Privileged white male culture allows and encourages excessive drinking and obnoxious behavior toward women. It is excused because "boys will be boys." But which boys? Black boys, even when accused of "reckless eyeballing," are fair game for lynching! White boys on rampages are excused for assault, rape, and attempted rape.

Can I call the name of Recy Taylor, the young Black woman who was walking home from church and raped by a gaggle of white men who thought her body their right? Can I remind us of the Texas gubernatorial candidate, Clayton Williams, who said that if rape was inevitable, a woman should "lay back and enjoy it"? Ann Richards beat him, but that wasn't quite the point. The point was that some man thought that rape was inevitable enough to "enjoy."

Privileged white male culture allows a man who should not have been elected President to denigrate women on a regular basis. We are "fat," "dogs" and "liars."

He bragged about grabbing women's genitals, and our society is so poached in pernicious patriarchy that 52 percent of white women (and 41 percent of all women) still voted for him. They thought he was joking because, for too many women, patriarchy has so seeped into our consciousness that the abuse of women is a joke.

If we women were honest, we would say that we have all co-signed patriarchy in the interest of keeping it moving. We have deflected the sexist comments that come our way, even as we cringe from them. We smile at men that we abhor because they may have decision making power in their hands. We dress up or dress down depending on the occasion and the way we have to play the game. We know the system is slanted against us, we know we still have to play, and we decide when we choose to blow the whistle, a whistle we could blow every single day.

#MeToo is the tip of the iceberg because it fails to deal with race systematically, but also because it manages the evident and personal, not the institutional.

In addition to being #MeToo women, we are mothers, sisters, daughters, and wives (hello Julie Chen Moonves), so some of us want to justify patriarchy for "our" men. Our sons, husbands, cousins, brothers "didn't mean it" and could not be that bad.

Wake-up call — if they violated a woman, they were THAT bad. If they raped a Black woman and you turned away from the accusation, you are wrong, you are horribly

and complicity wrong.

Tearing down the walls of pernicious patriarchy means attacking the very foundation of our nation. When we attack patriarchy, we also attack the racism that is also part of our foundation. Many have lined up to support Dr. Christine Blasey Ford. How many are equally willing to attack the pernicious racist patriarchal roots of our nation?

Julianne Malveaux is an author and economist. Her latest book "Are We Better Off? Race, Obama and Public Policy" is available via www.amazon.com for booking, wholesale inquiries or for more info visit www.juliannemalveaux.com




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Social Campaign Takes On Discriminatory Hair Standards

By Brandon Brown
Data News Weekly
Contributor

After Faith Fennidy, an 11-year-old African-American girl, was removed because of her ethnic hairstyle from Christ the King Elementary School, her Xavier University big sisters decided to show her that she is not alone. In September, Xavier student leaders took to social media to promote confidence in an intrinsic aspect of African-American culture: hair. The #IAmNotMyHair Campaign set out to promote pride for African-American girls and women who may have experienced discrimination or negative stigmas either at school, a job, or anywhere else.

"If they see that we're proud of who we are no matter the skin tone, hairstyle, or hair texture, they're going to be like, 'oh I can be like them,'" said Kelsey Green, Miss Xavier 2018-2019 who is leading the Xavier Campaign under #IAmNotMyHair is to set a positive example for these young girls.

"It would be good to show her that Xavier University, full of diverse Black women, has her back," Green said.

The campaign has been used before by African-American women to assert that hair does not define their value. This month it was used by Actress Sanaa Lathan to promote her 2018 Netflix Film *Nappily Ever After* released this month. In the film, her character shaves off her hair and begins a journey of self-acceptance. On social media, Xavier women have used this hashtag to set an example in cultural pride for Fennidy and for other young African-American girls and boys recently disciplined at schools because of their hairstyles.

Policies against African-American hairstyles, such as locs, twists, and braids, are often banned for school children. At the start of this school year, in Florida, 6-year-old Clinton Stanley Jr. was prevented from attending class because of his dreadlocks. In 2017, a Massachusetts school instructed twins Deanna and Mya Cook to remove their "distracting" braids. The students' parents typically argue that these policies unfairly discriminate against African-Americans, which is against federal law, and advocated that the schools should change their hair policies. How-

ever, in many cases, the schools are privately owned and are legally allowed to keep their policy. Some schools rescind or suspend policy after backlash, as the case of Deanna and Mya, and the students are allowed to return to school. In other schools, as was the case of Clinton Stanley Jr, the disciplinary action stands, and the student must enroll in a different school.

However, these policies are not exclusive to schools, they are also apparent in corporate job environments. In 2016 in Mobile, Ala., Chastity Jones was told by Catastrophe Management Solutions that they would not hire her unless she cut off her dreadlocks. In 2012, Six Flags denied employment to 21-year-old Markeese Warner due to her dreadlocks, a style which the

company calls an "extreme hairstyle." Even the United States Navy banned dreadlocks for women, but the ban finally ended this year in July.

The United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission filed a racial discrimination lawsuit on behalf of Chastity Jones against CMS, but the Federal District Court in Alabama ruled in favor of

CMS. They ruled that discrimination must show is bias based on unchangeable traits such as skin color, and that hairstyle does not fit under this category.

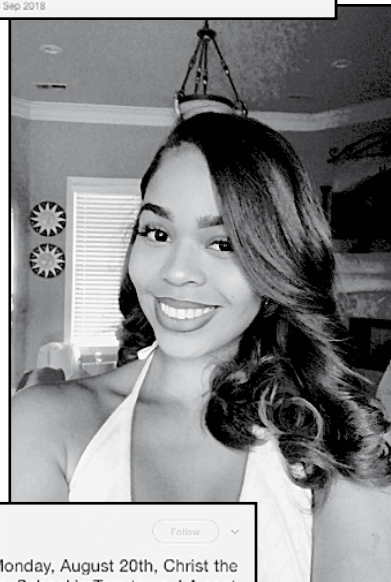
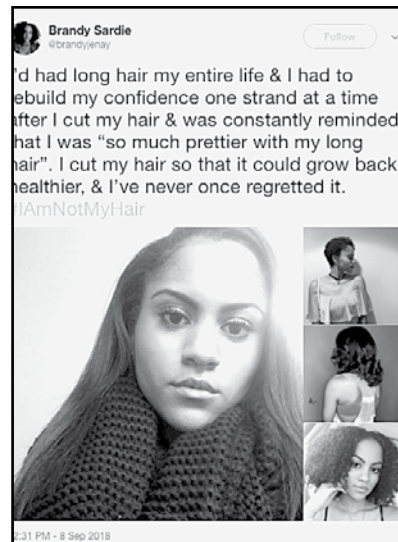
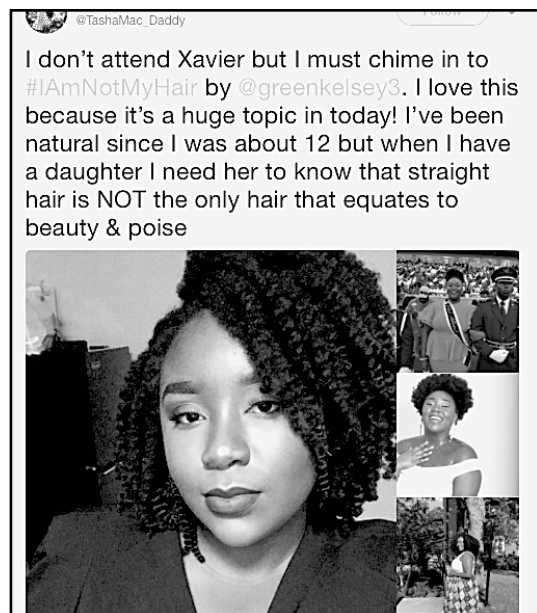
The effects of these discriminatory policies have proven to be adverse for African-American women. The "Good Hair Study," conducted in 2016 by Perception Institute, found that African-American women "perceive a level of social stigma against textured hair," and also "experience high levels of anxiety more than White women" when it comes to their hair.

Policies at schools and jobs that target African-American hair deters confidence. Angela Onwuachi-Willig, a Professor at the University of California, Berkeley said, "banning these hairstyles essentially tells Black girls and women... that the hair they were born with is faddish, extreme, distracting, and unprofessional."

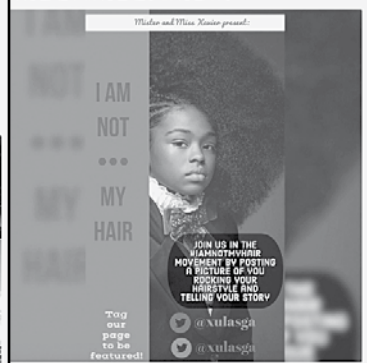
Under the hashtag, dozens of Xavier women have posted pictures and stories about their struggle to embrace their hair and the culture behind it. Many students said they also see the hashtag as an expression of liberation from oppressive perceptions towards African-American hair. Since women make up more than 70 percent of Xavier's student body, they feel it is important to show solidarity with students who have been discriminated against across America. Their stories explain instances of discrimination and negative stigmas, but more importantly, how they have overcome these experiences and learned to love and accept themselves.

"It's about voicing that your hair does not define your beauty and doesn't dictate over the other qualities within yourself," said Mizani Ball, a Mass Communication senior. She also said #IAmNotMyHair teaches African-American girls to love their hair which leads them to loving themselves for who they are.

The hashtag proves that women have the freedom to wear any hairstyle without consideration for what is expected of them, they said. "For a long time, Black women have been told what to do and how to do it," said Amenze Omorui, a senior, Psychology, Pre-Medicine major. "So #IAmNotMyHair basically symbolizes that it is our choice," Omorui said.



Xavierites, on Monday, August 20th, Christ the King Elementary School in Terrytown, LA sent home a student after wearing her hair with extensions after the school passed a strict dress code policy prohibiting "non-natural" hair styles. #IAmNotMyHair #XULA22 #XULA21 #XULA20 #XULA19



Photos courtesy Kelsey Green

Bill Cosby Sentenced to 3 to 10 Years in Prison, Files Notice of Appeal

By Stacy M. Brown
NNPA Newswire Contributor

Bill Cosby arrived at the Montgomery County, Pennsylvania courthouse in a black SUV surrounded by his publicists and attorneys. He left in a prison van, escorted by sheriff's deputies.

His lawyers immediately filed a notice of appeal.

Judge Steven T. O'Neill sentenced the fallen comic to as many as 10 years in state prison. Cosby, 81, could be released after serving a minimum of three years.

"You have no right to it," O'Neill told Cosby's attorney Joe Green, when asked that his client remain free on bail pending appeal. "This is a serious crime," said the judge, who earlier had designated Cosby a sexual violent predator which means he'll have to undergo a lifetime of monthly counseling and report quarterly to authorities.

Because of the sexual violent predator designation, Cosby's name also will appear on a sex-offender registry sent to neighbors, schools and victims.

Additionally, after having already paid the victim in the case, Andrea Constand, \$3.4 million in a civil settlement, the sexually violent predator designation can also be used against him in several defamation lawsuits that are pending against him.

Prosecutors had asked for a five- to 10-year sentence.

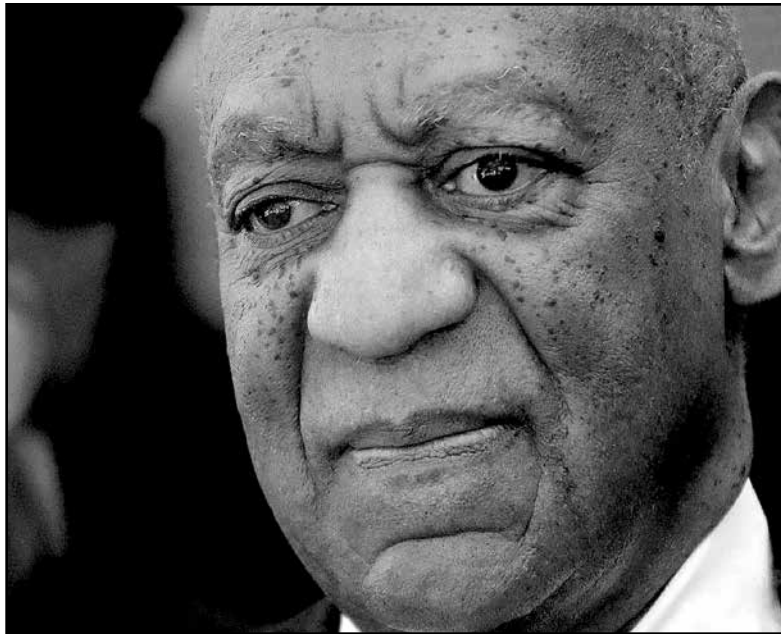
Cosby's spokesman Andrew Wyatt told reporters that the sentence continues the "lynching of a legacy."

"This has been the most racist and sexist trial in the history of the United States," Wyatt said. "Dr. Cosby has been one of the greatest civil rights leaders in the United States for over the last 50 years. He's also been one of the greatest educators of men and boys over the past 50 years.

"This wasn't pointed out in court to the jurors or allowed in because of the racist and sexist mass media was attacking and denouncing Dr. Cosby whenever his lawyers even hinted that racism and sexism was present."

Wyatt continued:

"All three psychologists that testified against Dr. Cosby were white women who make money off of accusing Black men of being a sexual predator and it's no accident that Prosecutor Steele worked so closely with anti-Black and anti-Male activist groups who tried to extort \$100 million from Dr. Cosby in 2014.



Judge Steven T. O'Neill sentenced the fallen comic to as many as 10 years in state prison. Bill Cosby, 81, could be released after serving a minimum of three years.

Wyatt and Cosby's wife, Camille, also pointed to an NNPA Newswire exclusive story earlier this month that revealed that tapes used to help convict Cosby were doctored.

After reading the NNPA Newswire story, Cosby hired a forensic firm in Northern Virginia to review recordings of phone calls with Cosby provided by Constand's mother, Gianna. The recordings were used as evidence in both of Cosby's trials.

However, Wyatt and Camille Cosby said the firm found that the recordings were indeed doctored.

In a statement from Camille Cosby, read by publicist Ebonee Benson on Tuesday, Cosby's wife said they also presented the findings to Montgomery County, Pennsylvania detectives who investigated Bill Cosby.

"They found that they were unable to authenticate the tapes," Camille Cosby said in her statement.

Cosby said her husband's legal team would immediately file for relief on the basis that Steele used falsified evidence to win the conviction.

"The right to a fair trial is of utmost importance," Camille Cosby said.

"The prosecutor has the responsibility to protect the innocent... Gianna Constand surreptitiously and illegally recorded a conversation with my husband, which the former District Attorney Bruce Castor said was illegal," she said.

"Steele used illegal recordings in both trials."

Wyatt called it a persecution. "I'm not saying Mr. Cosby is Jesus, but we know what this country has done to Black men for centuries," he said.

with Cosby in which the actor would waive his Fifth Amendment right and sit for a civil deposition. The then-District Attorney agreed that whatever Cosby said in the deposition would be sealed and could never be used to prosecute him.

Camille Cosby recently filed a request for a full investigation into O'Neill with the Pennsylvania Judicial Conduct Board at the state's capitol in Harrisburg.

"In light of Judge O'Neill's continuing unethical conduct, I have retained a former prosecutor based in Harrisburg, Brian W. Perry, to facilitate my efforts to uncover the truth regarding the longstanding and ongoing feud between Castor and the judge," Camille Cosby said in a statement last week.

"Mr. Perry will provide the Judicial Conduct Board with recent written communications from Mr. Castor that contradict the judge's claim that there is no grudge," Camille Cosby said.

"For example, an email from Mr. Castor references Judge O'Neill as 'A judge with an enormous potential bias [who] did not disclose that possible bias to the lawyers to give them the option to seek a new judge,'" she said, specifically referencing an email Castor sent to the Washington Inquirer on March 27th.

Camille Cosby's statement continued:

"One week prior to my request for investigation, Bill Cosby filed a motion demanding that the judge provide a full accounting of his longstanding feud with and bias against Bruce Castor, the former DA of Montgomery County.

"The motion explained that Mr. Cosby retained a former FBI agent to investigate the relationship of Messrs. Castor and O'Neill after recently being tipped off about their feud in an unsourced tabloid [Radar Online] article. The former agent discovered that, in 1999, when Messrs. O'Neill and Castor were running against each other to become DA, Mr. Castor ordered a female prosecutor whom Mr. O'Neill had dated to visibly support Mr. Castor during a key debate."

After Bill Cosby was led away in handcuffs on Tuesday, Wyatt said his boss was holding up well.

"Bill Cosby is fine. They prosecuted Jesus, and look what happened to him," Wyatt said. "[Cosby] believes in God, and he will be OK."

Cosby was found guilty in April of three counts of aggravated indecent assault for the drugging and sexual assault of Constand, a former Temple University employee, at his home in Montgomery County more than 14 years ago.

He was the first celebrity to be criminally convicted of sexual abuse since the start of the #MeToo movement, the national movement that has resulted in numerous celebrities and powerful individuals, like former NBC "Today" host Matt Lauer, movie mogul Harvey Weinstein, and many others, losing their careers.

President Donald Trump has also been accused of sexual misconduct and his Supreme Court pick, Brett Kavanaugh is set to face at least one of his accusers when he appears before a Senate committee on Thursday.

Cosby, who declined to address the court during sentencing and also didn't testify during either of his trials, has vowed to continue to fight his conviction.

His attorneys as well as many other legal experts have said there are numerous grounds for a higher court to consider overthrowing the verdicts against him.

Among O'Neill's rulings that Cosby's team believe are questionable is the contentious relationship the judge has had with former District Attorney Bruce Castor, who previously declined to file charges against Cosby because he said Constand wasn't credible and there wasn't evidence to support a prosecution.

Castor also made an agreement

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