

Fellowships Com.

JULIUS ROSENWALD FUND

July 31, 1944

Dear Mr. Paty: For the past month I have been having conversations with Mr. Moron in regard to the project he proposes in the enclosed letter. I have discussed it with members of the Committee who are personally acquainted with him (and who, incidentally, are more easily available than you - except for you the whole Committee are now at least part-time Chicagoans!).

I am sure you are familiar with the situation in Atlanta in regard to Negro lawyers. There are only two - Walden, who is now in his sixties, and a young woman of rather mediocre ability who was admitted to practice last year. There is great need for a young lawyer of outstanding ability who can be admitted to practice in Atlanta. All applicants for admission to the bar except the young woman mentioned above have been turned down since Ben Davis and the Angelo Herndon case.

It is felt that Mr. Moron stands the best chance and perhaps the only chance for a young progressive Negro to be admitted to practice because of the splendid relations he has established with influential white citizens in Atlanta. He is highly recommended by such men as Bill Hastie, Dean of the Howard Law Schools, Thurgood Marshall of the NAACP, and Charles Houston, Washington attorney and member of FEPC, as well as by Dr. Will and Dr. Johnson, as a man who is eminently qualified to play an important role in the Atlanta courts if he receives legal training.

Mr. Moron was born in the Virgin Islands and is thirty-five years old. He is 4F in the draft. He had his high school work at Hampton and his college training at Brown University, where he made Phi Beta Kappa. (Incidentally, Ripley made him famous in Believe It or Not: "A. Moron graduated with the highest grades ever received at Brown.") He majored in sociology at Brown and took an M.A. in social work at the University of Pittsburgh. He was for several years Commissioner of Public Welfare in the government of the Virgin Islands. He was induced to return to the States and to take over the management of the University Homes Housing Project in Atlanta by the late John Hope.



FELLOWSHIPS

Moron, A.

FISK
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Mr. Moron has done an outstanding job in housing there. When six later Negro projects were built under the Housing Authority of Atlanta, he was engaged as manager and consultant. His management and development of what were the first large housing projects for Negroes in the country have brought him national recognition in the housing field.

Now Mr. Moron is convinced that he can be of greater service in law than in any other field and that progress can be made in the South through a more effective use of the law courts. His record in relation to his effectiveness in working with the white citizens of the community is probably the most important assurance that he can be effective in the profession of law. He is both liked and respected in the general community; he is a member of the executive board of the Georgia State Conference of Social Work and of the Atlanta Social Planning Council, the only Negro member on these boards. He is also a member of the executive board of the Urban League. At the request of the State Office of Price Administration Mr. Moron worked out the plan for the integration of Negroes in the rationing and price control program. For several years he has conducted the Negro division of the Community Fund campaign. He was elected this year to the Interracial Committee of the Atlanta Chamber of Commerce. We have complete assurance that he will be admitted to practice before the Atlanta courts because of his many contacts.

I have gone into rather full detail in regard to Mr. Moron since granting the fellowship which Mr. Moron requests entails the breaking of several rules which the Committee has rigidly adhered to. It is only because we have what seems to be a very promising candidate and an urgent situation that I think we might make an exception in this case to our rules against aid to obtain a professional degree and to out-of-season grants.

Mr. Moron asks for six thousand dollars, which he expects to use over a three-year period of study at Harvard, by which time he expects to have obtained his initial law degree and a Master's degree in law. He has been admitted to Harvard for this year but cannot finance the year without assistance. Mr. Embree, Dr. Will, and Dr. Johnson feel that since there are funds available, it would be well to vote the funds now rather than to require a formal application to be presented to the Committee at its next meeting, which would postpone his work for a full year.

Mr. Embree feels that, if the grant is made, it would be wise to appropriate the total amount at this time rather than through yearly renewals. We have sufficient unallocated funds for the grant since Ralph Bunche was unable to accept his award (for \$5000 a year for two years) and one other of this year's fellowships was not accepted.

Will you let me know whether you approve granting this fellowship? Mr. Embree, Dr. Will, Dr. Johnson, and Dr. Weaver have given it favorable consideration. I am writing to Mr. Bontemps for his response today.

I am planning to visit the university this fall. I hope I'll strike a time when you will be there. I also trust there'll be some good fellowship material on hand!

Sincerely yours,

VANDI V. HAYGOOD

Mrs. William C. Haygood
Acting Director for Fellowships

VH:RR
encl. - *Copy of Mr. Morau's letter*

President Raymond R. Paty
University of Alabama
University, Alabama