



**For Immediate Release**

**October 31st, 2014**

### **College of Law Alumnus Receives Torch of Excellence Award**

John G. McNeill (Law '82) received the Upholding the Torch of Excellence Award at the 24<sup>th</sup> Annual Lyman T. Johnson Awards Celebration on October 24, 2014 as part of the University of Kentucky Homecoming festivities. The Lyman T. Johnson Award goes to an "African-American alumnus, faculty or staff person whose faith, hard work, and determination has positively impacted the lives of people on the UK Campus, the city, state or nation." This award is named in honor of Mr. Johnson, who led the fight for desegregation at UK. Johnson served as president of the Louisville N.A.A.C.P. and worked as an educator in the Louisville Public Schools for 40 years. The College of Law nominated McNeill for the Torch of Excellence Award for numerous reasons including his involvement with young people in the community, more than thirty-one years of experience as a trial attorney in the Commonwealth, and many contributions of his time and energy to the College of Law and broader legal community.

McNeill is a partner with Landrum & Shouse, LLP in Lexington, Kentucky. He received the 2015 Best Lawyers in America award for personal injury litigation defense, was named a Kentucky Super Lawyer for the past two years, and has been an AV Preeminent Rated Attorney for 14 years.

McNeill volunteers much of his time to community outreach, including mentoring members of the Black Law Students Association at the UK College of Law and serving as a role model for under-parented and disenfranchised youth through his involvement with Men with One Voice Empowered. He has also volunteered his time to positively impact the legal community through service in various positions, including the National Bar Association, American Bar Association, Kentucky Bar Association, and Fayette County Bar Association.

McNeill is currently in his second year of a four-year term on the College of Law's Visiting Committee, a group comprised of some of the College's most distinguished graduates who regularly meet with the Dean, faculty and students of the College.