

The Life and Legacy of **James E. Craigen, Sr.**

Few people get to compose the blueprint for their lives, but that is exactly what James E. Craigen did as one of the members of the National Association of Black Social Workers (NABSW) responsible for drafting its Code of Ethics. The basic tenets of that document—the primacy of the black family and community and service to others—have guided his personal and professional life over the years. The greater part of his professional career was the years he spent as a faculty member at Howard University School of Social Work, where he was an Associate Professor, Chair of the Macro Sequences, representative to the Faculty Senate Council, and served on numerous committees, including the school's Executive Committee. Before his appointment at Howard University School of Social Work, Professor Craigen began his academic career as a field instructor at the University of Chicago's School of Social Services. After six months, he was promoted to Assistant Professor, where he taught community organization as a member of a three-person cross-methods team.

Professor Craigen takes pride in his teaching and scholarship, having influenced the lives of hundreds of students during his illustrious career teaching community organization, social policy, and human service management courses specializing in family and child welfare. He takes great pride in the achievements of his students—particularly his graduate assistants and often receives feedback about his role in their careers. He received the Winner in Excellence Award in Teaching and the Delta Lambda Chapter of Alpha Phi Alpha Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Field of Teaching. As a researcher and evaluator, Professor Craigen successfully managed over \$4 million in federal, state, and local grants during his career at Howard University. He was the Principal Investigator for the National Center on Permanency for African American Children (NCPAAC). He is also a member of the Howard University Republic of South Africa Project (HURSAP) and visited South Africa many times. He travels extensively internationally for business and pleasure, attending and participating in international conferences, and has cruised the Caribbean and the Mediterranean.

Public service is something that comes naturally for James E. Craigen. He joined the National Association of Social Workers (NASW) in 1960 as a student at Atlanta University at the behest of his dean, Whitney M. Young, Jr. He was an active student leader at Morris Brown College and Atlanta University. He maintained his membership in NASW after graduation. He served as Vice President for Social Policy and Social Action for the Chicago Chapter of NASW, elected president from 1969 to 1971. He was the co-leader of Black Caucuses at Delegate Assemblies in 1968, 1970, and 1972, which sought to put the issues of racism and poverty on the national agenda. Professor Craigen is a founding member of the National Association of Black Social Workers and attended its first conference in 1968 and has attended every conference since

with one exception. He has served in many capacities, both nationally and locally. He co-founded the Chicago Chapter of NABSW and helped to re-establish the Washington, DC Chapter of NABSW for which he served as Vice President. He continues his steadfast commitment to NABSW and is recognized as a Pioneer and Elder by the organization, which frequently requests his counsel. He has held memberships in numerous professional organizations, including the Council on Social Work Education (CSWE) and the Association for Community Organization and Social Administration (ACOSA).

Professor Craigen's commitment to public service is not limited to academia. He was appointed to the Baltimore City Commission on Social Services in 1996, chaired from 1997 to 2000, and was Chair of the Maryland Association of Social Service Boards. He is the former Co-Chair of Healthy Families/Thriving Communities Coalition in Washington, DC, which created the collaboratives. He is also a founding member of the DC Health and Human Services Coalition. Prof. Craigen participated in the development and expansion of the National African-American Drug Policy Coalition Inc. as a representative of NABSW and serves on the Executive Committee. In this capacity, he assisted with the creation of the East Baltimore Drug-Free coalition funded by \$625,000. He is also a founding board member of the Congressional Research Institute for Research and Policy (CRISP). Professor Craigen is a founding member of the Howard County Foundation for Black Educational and Cultural Achievement; a former member of the Board of Trustees at St. John Baptist Church; Vice President of the Cathedral Choir at St. John's Baptist Church; a member of Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, Delta lambda chapter; a member of the DC United Way Regional Council; a member of the Olton Singers of Baltimore Maryland; and a member of the Community Choir of Baltimore City.

James E. Craigen received his Bachelor of Arts degree in sociology from Morris Brown College in 1960 and his Master of Social Work degree from Atlanta University School of Social Work in 1962. He did post-graduate study in Social Policy and Community Planning at the University of Maryland School of Social Work. He is a Licensed Independent Certified Social Worker (LICSW) in the District of Columbia and has been certified in Supervision, Public Transportation, and Quadrant II Time Management. He is President of Human Services Systems Associates, Inc., a 501(c)3 nonprofit organization founded in 1979.