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Answering the Call: An Autobiography of the Modern Struggle to End Racial Discrimination in America

Judge Nathaniel R. Jones
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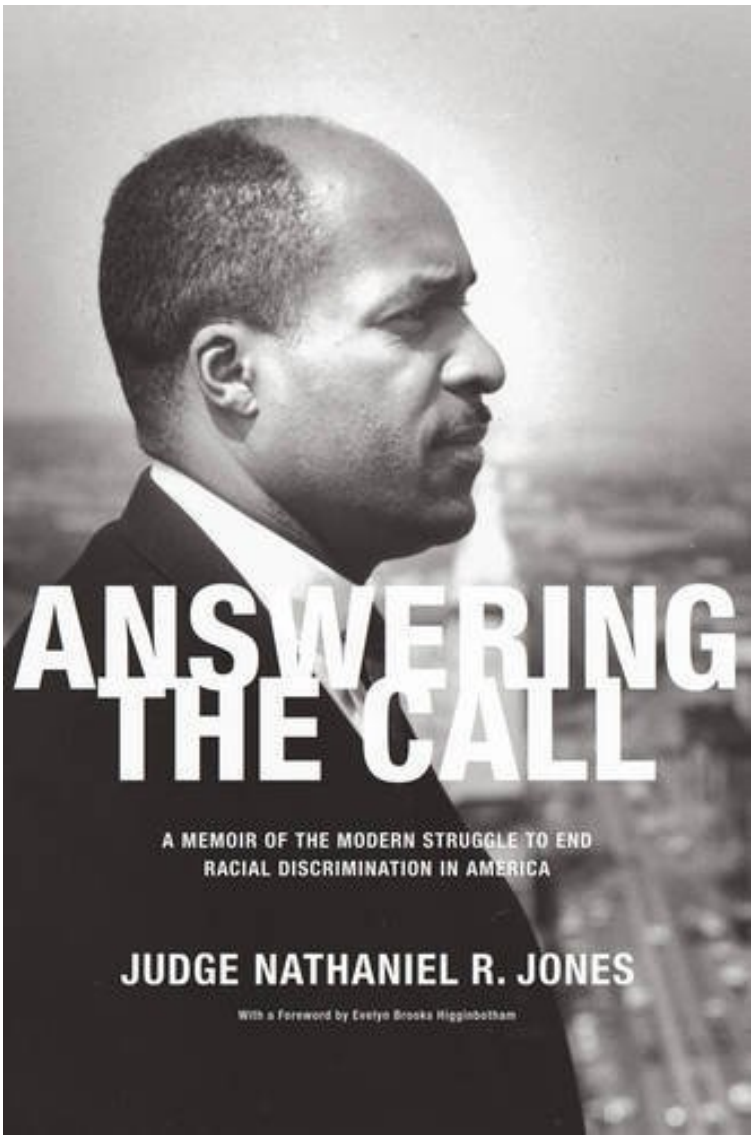

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Judge Nathaniel R. Jones : Answering the Call: An Autobiography of the Modern Struggle to End Racial Discrimination in America before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Answering the Call: An Autobiography of the Modern Struggle to End Racial Discrimination in America:

4 of 4 people found the following review helpful. An Extraordinary Book!By JoyceThis is an extraordinary book,

offering a long and deep perspective of the civil rights movement through the eyes of an unsung hero who was deeply involved in so many aspects of the fight for desegregation and equality. Judge Jones' story, by itself, is a fascinating one, but he weaves through it so many interesting and insightful observations of major players and moments in the movement that he takes the book beyond a mere memoir to another level. It is personal and gracefully written, almost conversational, but Judge Jones also provides the depth, intellectual heft and cogent and understandable analysis of complex issues. This is a wonderful book for anyone interested in better understanding of the legal and political strategy of the movement and what it means for us today. It's also an inspiring message that everyone can do their part to improve their world by answering the call in their own way.3 of 3 people found the following review helpful. A powerful memoir of a truly good man.By William PinzlerJudge Jones has written his memoir. Growing up in segregated Youngstown, Ohio, attending local schools, local university and night law school, Judge Jones rose to be an Assistant US Attorney,general counsel of the NAACP and a judge of the 6th Circuit Court of Appeals He is an extraordinary man who has told his remarkable story in a readable, compelling style, His insights and analysis of the civil rights movement, and the undermining of early successes by judges such as John Roberts and Clarence Thomas make for powerful reading. This book is a must read for all, not just lawyers. Reading about his career, his mentors and his devotion to doing good everywhere in the world makes for wonderful, compelling reading. . .0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Amazing book!By Eat RealBrilliant history. Beautifully written. Helps explain a lot about where we are now in race relations in the USA. It is essential that we learn how we got here if we want to move forward. Judge Jones exposes the persistent injustice and oppression of African Americans and the systems (terror, legal and judicial) that have been used to perpetuate this. A must read if you are interested in American history.

Answering the Call is an extraordinary eyewitness account from an unsung hero of the battle for racial equality in Americaa battle that, far from ending with the great victories of the civil rights era, saw some of its signal achievements in the desegregation fights of the 1970s and its most notable setbacks in the affirmative action debates that continue into the present in Ferguson, Baltimore, and beyond. Judge Nathaniel R. Joness pathbreaking career was forged in the 1960s: as the first African American assistant U.S. attorney in Ohio; as assistant general counsel of the Kerner Commission; and, beginning in 1969, as general counsel of the NAACP. In that latter role, Jones coordinated attacks against Northern school segregationa vital, divisive, and poorly understood chapter in the movement for equalitytwice arguing in the pivotal U.S. Supreme Court case Bradley v. Milliken, which addressed school desegregation in Detroit. He also led the national response to the attacks against affirmative action, spearheading and arguing many of the signal legal cases of that effort. Judge Jones's story is an essential corrective to the idea of a post-racial Americahis voice and his testimony offering enduring evidence of the unfinished work of ending Jim Crow's legacy.

Praise for Answering the Call: "Jones, a trailblazing African American judge, delivers an urgently needed perspective on American history [Jones] convincingly argues throughout this passionate and informative account that the rule and force of law achieved through Brown v. Board of Education must be upheld, or we face a return to the racial injustices of the past.Booklist Starred "This careful, considered debut highlights a life committed to justice and to the principle that the law is the 'inescapable route' to attaining equality."Publishers Weekly "A forthright testimony by a witness to history."Kirkus s Praise for Judge Nathaniel R. Jones: "Jones, a trailblazing African American judge, delivers an urgently needed perspective on American history [Jones] convincingly argues throughout this passionate and informative account that the rule and force of law achieved through Brown v. Board of Education must be upheld, or we face a return to the racial injustices of the past.Booklist Starred "Nathaniel Jones was called to justice work the way others are called into ministry and we are all the better for it. An end to racial discrimination, abuse and bigotry is not inevitable. Racial justice is achieved when dedicated people do difficult and at times daunting work with little support or acknowledgment. No one understands that better than the legendary Judge Jones and this important book gives life to the idea that one person can make an enormous difference in the world."Bryan Stevenson, professor of clinical law, New York University School of Law, and author of Just Money "Nathaniel R. Jones, one of the unsung heroes of the struggle for civil rights, has lived his life in the struggle for civil rights. Federal appellate judge, general counsel for the NAACP, leading lawyer in the private and public sectors, he has left an indelible mark on our nation. In a time of great cynicism and despair, his story, told with candor and grace, is a reminder of the call to service and higher ground. Answering the Call is that story, and we need to know it now."Theodore M. Shaw, Julius L. Chambers Distinguished Professor of Law, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill School of Law "Answering the Call is a richly drawn and revealing account of a brave lawyer and judges fight for racial equality in Americas schools and society. Judge Jones presents a story almost like a movie; you feel that you are there with him, facing the challenges and savoring the hard-won victories. It is an inspirational story that informs the present as we witness the power of personal relationships and the irreplaceable role of courage and stamina in achieving the racial equality that we and our nation still seek."John E. Pepper, chief executive officer of the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center and former chairman of the board of the Walt Disney Company "This is the beautifully written story of an amazing

lifea man who has been a civil rights activist, a federal prosecutor, NAACP general counsel, a federal court of appeals judge, and a prominent attorney. But it also is the story of race in the United States over the 90 years of Nathaniel Joness life, of the struggles, of how far our society has come, and how much is left to be done. It is a magnificent book that kept me enthralled and that is a reminder of how much one man can accomplish."Erwin Chemerinsky, dean and distinguished professor of law, University of California, Irvine School of Law "[Jones] has blazed trails, opened doors, created opportunity, destroyed myths, and made America a better place for himself and for 'the least of these, our brothers and sisters.'"Vernon E. Jordan Jr. "Judge Jones's entire adult life is distinguished by one transcendent themean overwhelming sense of duty to work for equality of opportunity through the rule of lawJudge Jones's commitment to his ideals made him a national leader for civil liberties and human rights and for promoting the ideal of justice."Gilbert S. Merritt, Chief Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit "Even in their youth, some individuals seem destined for greatness. They possess a keen intellect, a fierce determination, and insightful leadership qualities. That was the impression Nathaniel R. Jones made on me when I first me him in the fall of 1946[He] exemplifies the highest wisdom as a judge, a lawyer, and a caring citizen."Leon Higginbotham Jr., Chief Judge, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit