

# Justine Ronald Williams: An Unsung Hero of the Civil Rights Movement

Justine Ronald Williams was a civil rights activist who played a key role in the desegregation of public schools in Maryland. She was born in 1916 in Annapolis, Maryland, and grew up in a segregated society. Despite the challenges she faced, Williams was determined to make a difference in the world.



## Justine by Ronald Williams

★★★★☆ 4.4 out of 5

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|----------------------|-------------|
| Language             | : English   |
| File size            | : 21832 KB  |
| Text-to-Speech       | : Enabled   |
| Screen Reader        | : Supported |
| Enhanced typesetting | : Enabled   |
| Word Wise            | : Enabled   |
| Print length         | : 144 pages |





In 1951, Williams joined the Maryland NAACP. She quickly became a leader in the organization, and in 1954, she was elected president of the Annapolis branch. Under Williams' leadership, the Annapolis NAACP filed a lawsuit against the Anne Arundel County Board of Education, challenging the constitutionality of segregated schools. The case was eventually heard by the Supreme Court, which ruled in 1954 in *Brown v. Board of Education* that segregated schools were unconstitutional.

After the *Brown v. Board of Education* ruling, Williams continued to work to desegregate schools in Maryland. She helped to organize protests and boycotts, and she lobbied state legislators to pass laws that would end segregation. In 1957, Williams was appointed to the Maryland State Board of Education. She was the first African American to serve on the board, and she used her position to advocate for the desegregation of Maryland's public schools.

Williams' work helped to make Maryland one of the first states in the South to desegregate its public schools. She was a tireless advocate for justice and equality, and her legacy continues to inspire people today.

## **Awards and Recognition**

Williams received numerous awards and recognition for her work in the civil rights movement, including:

- The NAACP Spingarn Medal (1959)
- The Maryland Civil Rights Hall of Fame (1995)
- The Congressional Gold Medal (2005)

## **Legacy**

Williams' legacy continues to inspire people today. She is a role model for activists and leaders who are working to make the world a more just and equitable place. Her story is a reminder that even small acts of courage can make a big difference.

## **Further Reading**

To learn more about Justine Ronald Williams, you can read the following books:

- Justine Ronald Williams: A Life in the Civil Rights Movement by Philip S. Foner
- The Civil Rights Movement in Maryland: A History by David G. Roediger
- The NAACP in Maryland: A History by Arnold M. Weiss

You can also visit the following websites:

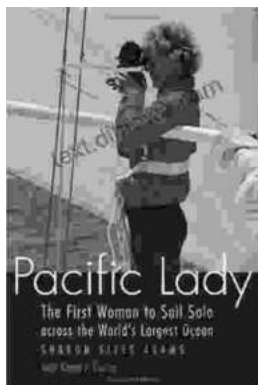
- Justine Ronald Williams website
- NAACP website
- Maryland Civil Rights Hall of Fame website



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