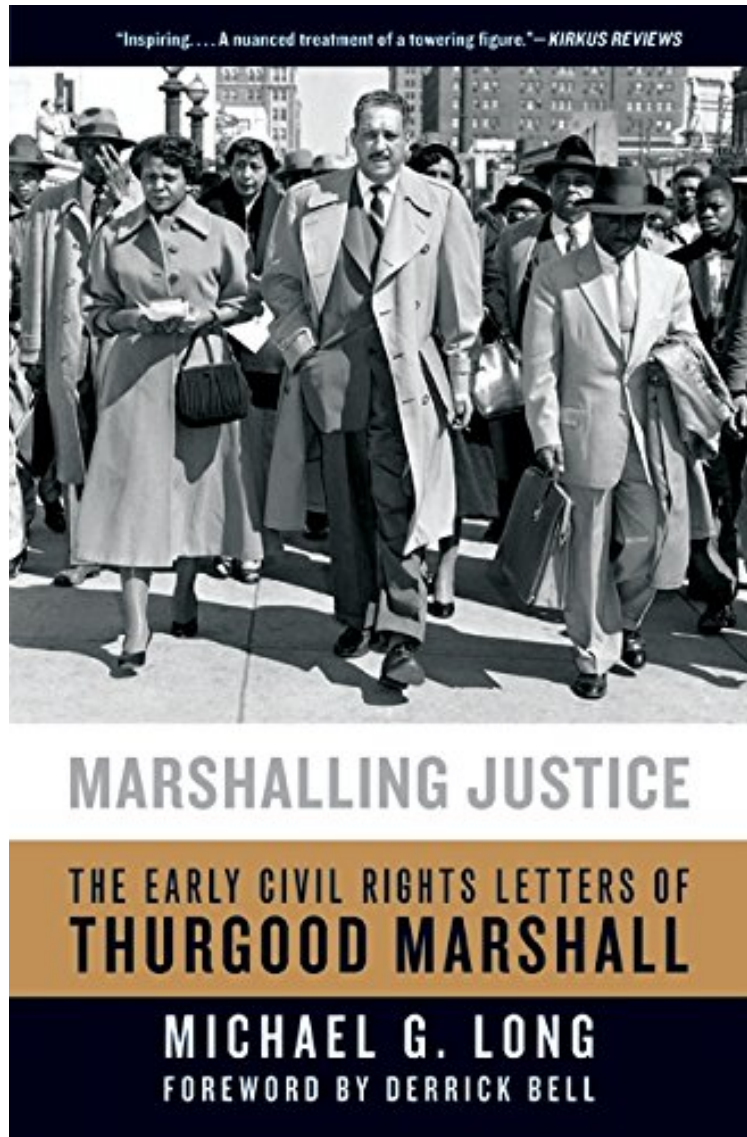


# Marshalling Justice: The Early Civil Rights Letters of Thurgood Marshall

*Michael G. Long*

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**Michael G. Long : Marshalling Justice: The Early Civil Rights Letters of Thurgood Marshall** before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Marshalling Justice: The Early Civil Rights Letters of Thurgood Marshall:

1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Heartbreaking and InspiringBy Patrick J. WigginHaving read a number of books about the life and work of Thurgood Marshall and his early NAACP leadership, I was very excited to

have the opportunity to read the words of the man himself. What I found was both uplifting and tragic, as Michael Long carefully lays out a large cross section of Mr. Marshall's letters to the leaders of government, media and the Civil Rights movement. The background for each letter is quick and insightful, taking care to shed light on the rampant racial injustice that prevailed in the U.S. during his years with the NAACP. Especially infuriating are many of the responses from U.S. Presidents, members of Congress, Governors and military leaders who at times happily turned a blind eye to what was going on in this country. This book gave me a lot to think about and I highly recommend it to anyone interested in the life of Thurgood Marshall, the history of the NAACP or the Civil Rights movement. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Thurgood Marshall Letters By Junn13A welcome addition to my library. First hand accounts of the struggles, roadblocks, and legal battles of African Americans during the beginning Civil Rights movement. 0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. Compelling story of a master lawyer and civil rights hero By Bruce As an attorney, I'm picky about books about the law. But Michael Long's collection of more than 20 years of letters by Thurgood Marshall is a compelling and -- yes -- suspenseful account of his precedent-setting life as an attorney for the NAACP. If you thought Rev. Martin Luther King laid the groundwork for the evolution and revolution that has finally put a black man in the White House, this book will change your mind. Thurgood Marshall worked tirelessly to change the law and fight injustice -- and he was nearly lynched for it. Through his letters one also gets a glimpse of Marshall's incredible work ethic. My only regret was that Michael Long couldn't get access to Marshall's letters from after 1957 -- hopefully, there is another book to come.

[An] important collection. Michael G. Long deserves high praise indeed for unearthing [Marshalls letters] and bringing them to light. Wil Haygood Collected together for the first time in *Marshalling Justice*, here are selected letters written by one of the most influential and important activists in the American Civil Rights movement: the brilliant legal mind and footsoldier for justice and racial equality, Thurgood Marshall. The correspondences of a rebellious young attorney with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), *Marshalling Justice* paints an eye-opening portrait of Thurgood Marshall before he became the first African American to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court, during his years as a groundbreaking and vibrant Civil Rights activist in the tradition of Martin Luther King and Julian Bond.

From Publishers Weekly Readers for whom Marshall is best known for arguing and winning *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* in 1954 and becoming the first African-American Supreme Court Justice in 1967 will find this collection of letters written between 1935 and 1957 thoroughly illuminating. Long's introductions lend a fluidity and coherence to the book; he presents each letter with so much context that the book has elements of a biography of Marshall and a history of the civil rights movement. The letters--which span Marshall's legal career from his first major civil rights case, *Murray v. Pearson*, in 1936--contain a rich vein of local history as well as correspondence concerning his major cases. Nor does Marshall's major case law focus deter him from attention to media misrepresentation, racial inequities in pay, military racism, or accounts of prison abuse and the persistence of lynching. "At times," Marshall wrote in 1949, "I get a little anxious about people who have no regard whatsoever for the amount of time necessary for lawyers to prepare this involved type of litigation." These letters offer a welcome and readable inner glimpse into that laborious and complex work. (Jan.) *Toward the Setting Sun: John Ross, the Cherokees, and the* (c) Copyright PWxyz, LLC. All rights reserved. Thank Michael G. Long for bringing to a wider public . . . [this] well-edited collection of Marshalls letters. (Kenneth J. Cooper, *Boston Globe*) The approximately 200 letters and memoranda reproduced here give a comprehensive overview of Marshalls role in galvanizing the civil rights movement. . . . Inspiring. . . . A nuanced treatment of a towering figure. (Kirkus s) [Marshalls] letters are plenty fascinating. Not to mention heartbreaking. . . . [Long] has done a wonderful job researching and editing and reminding us of how much we owe to all of our forebears, and this one in particular. (*Louisville Courier Journal*) An inside look at the personality, experiences and business interactions of the man who would become the first black Supreme Court Justice. (*Sister to Sister*) [E]nlightening. . . . Lawyers will read this book in total awe of Marshalls accomplishments. It reads like a panoramic, at times kaleidoscopic history of race in America. . . . Longs collection of Marshalls record of work is beyond impressive. (*Washington Lawyer*) This selection of letters reveals the depth and breadth of Marshalls work long before what we consider the start of the Civil Rights Movement. (*Library Journal*) Thoroughly illuminating. . . . These letters offer a welcome and readable inner glimpse into [Marshalls] work. (*Publishers Weekly*) *Marshalling Justice* . . . allows us to see more clearly the trail this legendary litigator blazed for civil rights. (*USA Today*) This important collection of Thurgood Marshalls letters poignantly shows the constant motion of his legal mind - and heart - as he soldiered so bravely in pursuit of equal justice. Michael G. Long deserves high praise indeed for unearthing and bringing them to light. (Wil Haygood, author of *King of the Cats: The Life and Times of Adam Clayton Powell Jr.*) Long has done the world a service. . . . The Marshall letters he has unearthed paint a vivid portrait of an unwavering warrior. . . . *Marshalling Justice* reminds us of how much can be learned from the collected correspondence of a great man. (Kevin Merida, national editor of the *Washington Post* and co-author of *Supreme Discomfort: The Divided Soul of Clarence Thomas*) [These] letters vividly illustrate what life was like for African

Americans in the mid-twentieth century and what it was like to be the nation's most important civil rights lawyer. As good a way to get to know Marshall the man and his life as there is. (Mark Tushnet, author of *Making Civil Rights Law: Thurgood Marshall and the Supreme Court, 1956-61*)

From the Back Cover Collected here together for the first time are the selected letters of one of the most influential and important activists in the American civil rights movement—the brilliant legal mind and foot soldier for justice, Thurgood Marshall. For twenty years prior to the Montgomery Bus Boycott, a rebellious young attorney with the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP), Thurgood Marshall, struggled tirelessly to combat racism, discrimination, and segregation in schools, transportation, the military, businesses, and voting booths across America. This collection of letters, compiled and edited by Michael G. Long, and written by Thurgood Marshall during his tenure with the NAACP long before he became a Supreme Court justice reveals this remarkable man's extraordinary intellectual development and invaluable contributions to the civil rights movement, highlighting his relentless work in helping secure equality and justice for all Americans. Long traces Marshall's correspondence with the most powerful leaders of his day: J. Edgar Hoover, Dwight D. Eisenhower, NAACP leader Walter White, and many others, cataloging how Marshall was able to accomplish in the courts what Martin Luther King Jr. would work to do from the pulpit and on the streets. Through these letters, we discover a startling new portrait of Marshall and gain a deeper understanding of the influences that spurred his unrelenting advocacy for society's most vulnerable. A window into the history and radical roots of the modern civil rights movement, these letters illuminate the strides that one man made, and the distance that still yawns between his goals and present-day reality.