



***For Immediate Release  
August 18, 2017***

***For More Information:  
Pam Rich, 573-644-3088  
Central Chapter Leadership***

**NAACP President, Public Defender to Speak August 31<sup>st</sup>  
On Racial Dynamics in Jury Selection in Mid-Missouri**

JEFFERSON CITY, Missouri.....In the wake of recent events in Charlottesville, VA, patterns of racial discrimination are being closely examined in many municipalities. Missouri was recently declared a “travel advisory state” by the NAACP due to racial disparities in police stops reported by the Missouri Attorney General’s Office on June 1 and a new law making it harder to prove employment discrimination that goes into effect on August 28. Now patterns of racial discrimination in jury selection are also being noted by prominent Cole County leaders, and that will be the topic of a dinner meeting on Thursday, August 31.

Nimrod (Rod) T. Chapel, Jr., President of the Missouri NAACP State Conference and the local NAACP chapter in Jefferson City, MO, and Justin Carver, Supervising Public Defender for Cole, Miller, and Moniteau counties, are keynote speakers at the annual dinner of Empower Missouri on Thursday, August 31, 2017, beginning at 6 p.m. The dinner is at Quinn Chapel AME Church, 415 Lafayette, Jefferson City, MO 65101. Tickets are \$25 and may be purchased at [https://secure.everyaction.com/c\\_-48caerUSAETW8pWXBew2](https://secure.everyaction.com/c_-48caerUSAETW8pWXBew2). Tickets may also be purchased at the door if reserved by August 28 with a call to 573-634-2901, x 303.

Chapel, owner of The Chapel Law Group LLC, is an attorney practicing law and an active participant in Missourians for Alternatives to the Death Penalty (MADP), Protect Your Right to Vote, Rotary, and Missouri Kids First. Carver has been practicing law as a public defender for 15 years. He was honored in 2007 with the Lon O. Hocker Award for his trial work.

Jeanette Mott Oxford, Executive Director of Empower Missouri, said, “Having grown up reciting ‘with liberty and justice for all,’ we as Americans are startled any time we learn our great nation is not living up to its potential. We encourage people of good will to attend this special presentation to learn how we can play our part in the work of forming a more perfect union, to borrow from the language of our founders.”

Empower Missouri, founded in 1901, is a statewide not-for-profit focusing on access to basic human needs and basic fairness. Empower Missouri ([www.EmpowerMissouri.org](http://www.EmpowerMissouri.org)) advocates for the well-being of Missourians through civic leadership, education, and research.

XXXXX