

Dennis Wayne Archer

Michigan Fellow Dennis W. Archer is Chairman of Dickinson Wright, a Detroit-based law firm with more than 250 attorneys, with five offices in Michigan, an office in Toronto, Nashville, Phoenix, and Washington, D.C. He sits on the corporate boards of Johnson Controls Inc., Compuware Corporation and Masco Corporation.

Archer served two four-year terms as mayor of the city of Detroit (1994-2001) and earned national and international respect for his success in changing Detroit's image and direction.

In 2000, Mayor Archer was named Public Official of the Year by *Governing* magazine. Archer served on the Board of Trustees of the U.S. Conference of Mayors and was president of the National League of Cities from 2000-2001. He received an Award of Excellence and was named 1998 Newsmaker of the Year by *Engineering News-Record* magazine, a sister publication of *Business Week*. He has been named one of the 100 Most Influential Black Americans by *Ebony* magazine; and one of the 100 Most Powerful Attorneys in the United States by the *National Law Journal*. Archer was named one of the 25 Most Dynamic Mayors in America by *Newsweek* magazine.

He received a Bachelor of Science degree in Education from Western Michigan University and taught learning disabled students in the Detroit Public Schools.

Archer earned his Juris Doctor from Detroit College of Law in 1970. He began practicing law thereafter, working as a trial lawyer and a partner in several Detroit firms, serving as associate professor of the Detroit College of Law and adjunct professor at Wayne State University Law School.

In 1985, Governor James Blanchard appointed Archer an Associate Justice of the Michigan Supreme Court. He was elected to an eight-year term the following year. In his final year on the bench in 1990, Archer was named the most respected judge in Michigan by *Michigan Lawyers Weekly*.

Archer has long been active in the organized bar. He was the first person of color elected president of the American Bar Association (2003-2004) as well as the State Bar of Michigan. He has also served as president of the Wolverine Bar Association and the National Bar Association. Archer is a Life Member of the Fellows of The American Bar Foundation and the National Bar Association, a Fellow of the International Society of Barristers, a Fellow of the College of Law Office Management and Life Member of the Sixth Circuit Judicial Conference.

Archer is married to Trudy DunCombe Archer, retired Judge of Michigan's 36th District Court. They have two sons, Dennis W. Archer, Jr. and Vincent DunCombe Archer, and two grandsons.