



LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTION PARTNERSHIP

ADVANCING JUSTICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY SOLUTIONS



Judge Don Jonz (Fmr.)
City of Miami, Florida
San Antonio, TX

Donald Wheeler Jonz graduated from Morehouse University and went on to Howard University School of Law, where he was business manager and wrote for the Howard University Law Review. Upon graduation, he returned to his hometown of Orlando and began practicing law. After a few years, his military reserve unit was activated, temporarily disrupting his law practice.

Following his six-month-long military orders, he relocated to Miami, practicing law there for seven years. He was then appointed municipal judge, which made him the first person of color to serve as judge on an integrated court in the South. The Community Relations Service (C.R.S.) of the U.S. Department of Justice recruited

him shortly thereafter, and he became the first permanent regional director of the Southeast region. The C.R.S. provided liaison between the Department of Justice and local communities throughout the South in order to lessen or avoid potential violence as citizens sought to exercise their rights to protest various racial injustices in their communities. The agency also worked to ameliorate the causes of racial tension by working with community groups that were attempting to improve. While serving in this capacity, he was promoted to deputy director of the C.R.S. in Washington, D.C., a position he held for five years.

Wanting to get back to mainstream legal matters, he took the position of deputy director for the Public Defender Service of the District of Columbia, which was then the premier public-defender service of the nation. After two years, he returned to private practice and worked in D.C. courts and the federal court of Maryland until he returned to Florida in 1998, where he became Dean of Students and Associate Professor of Law at the Florida Coastal School of Law. He retired in 2010.

The Law Enforcement Action Partnership is a nonprofit organization composed of police, prosecutors, judges, and other criminal justice professionals who use their expertise to advance drug policy and criminal justice solutions that improve public safety. With 150 speakers across the United States, LEAP representatives reach millions of Americans each year through educational programs and media interviews..

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Formerly known as Law Enforcement Against Prohibition