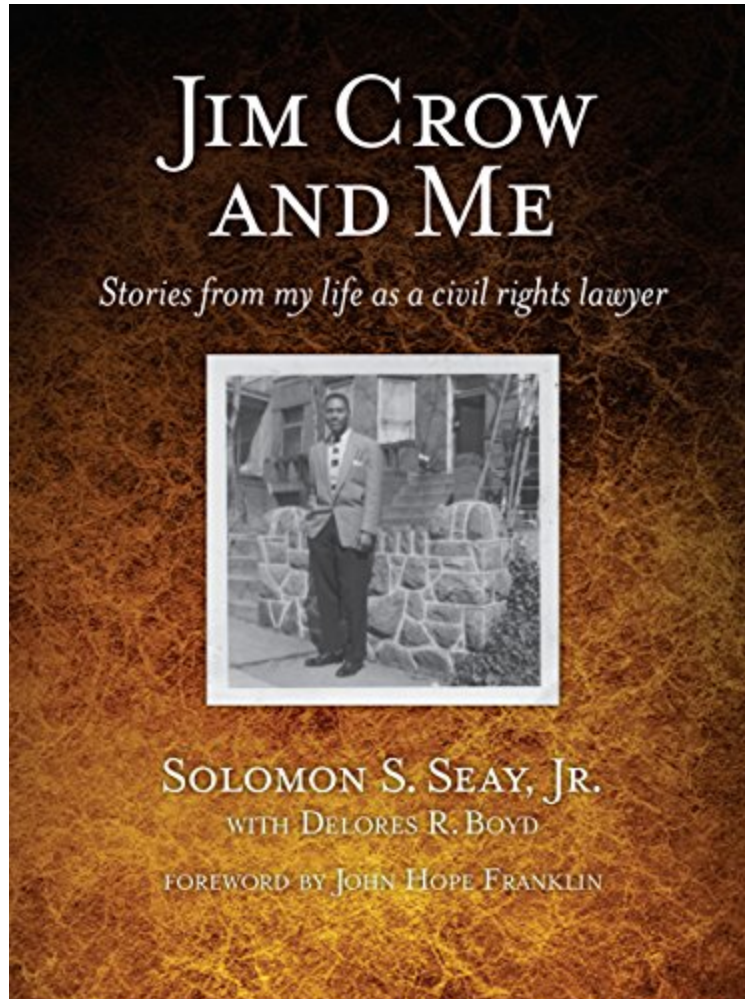


## Jim Crow and Me: Stories From My Life As a Civil Rights Lawyer

*Mr. Solomon Jr. Seay, Delores R. Boyd*  
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**Mr. Solomon Jr. Seay, Delores R. Boyd : Jim Crow and Me: Stories From My Life As a Civil Rights Lawyer** before purchasing it in order to gauge whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Jim Crow and Me: Stories From My Life As a Civil Rights Lawyer:

0 of 0 people found the following review helpful. A great book for all races and creeds By F.L. Andrew Padian A great book for all races and creeds. What a lovely and detailed remembrance from a real fighter. Thank you. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Student Readers Group selection at Alabama Book Festival By Foster J. Dickson We chose this book as the inaugural selection for a new outreach initiative at the Alabama Book Festival, the Student Readers Group. We have 50-75 students show up that day, all having read the book, and the questionnaires overwhelming showed that this was a great choice for high school students. Some of my own students, in a magnet high school creative writing program, read "Jim Crow and Me" and almost all of them really enjoyed it, and a few

were even very surprised at HOW MUCH they enjoyed it. A person might not think of a Civil Rights lawyer's memoir as good book for teenagers, but it proved to be an excellent choice. 1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. His story is not a uniformly flowing narrative, but rather a series of intense vignettes

By Midwest Book Review

Alabama civil rights lawyer Solomon S. Seay presents his memoir of practicing law during the turbulent civil rights era in *Jim Crow and Me: Stories From My Life As A Civil Rights Lawyer*. Raised by a preacher father whom Martin Luther King Jr. himself would cite as mentor and inspiration, Seay studied hard, and was one of only ten black lawyers in all of Alabama when he began his professional practice in 1957. His story is not a uniformly flowing narrative, but rather a series of intense vignettes, evoking the power and difficulty of challenging the old order and bringing a new standard of equality to America as a whole and the South in particular. Highly recommended.

Civil rights lawyer Solomon S. Seay, Jr. chronicles both heartening and heartbreaking episodes of his first-hand struggle to achieve the actualization of civil rights. Tempered with wit and told with endearing humility, Seay's memoir *Jim Crow and Me: Stories from My Life as a Civil Rights Lawyer* gives one pause for both cultural and personal reflection. With an eloquence befitting one of Alabama's most celebrated attorneys, Seay manages to not only relay his personal struggles with much fervor and introspection, but to acknowledge, in each brief piece, the greater societal struggle in which his story is necessarily framed. *Jim Crow and Me* is more than just a memoir of one man's battle against injustice; it is an accessible testament to the precarious battle against civil injustice that continues even today.

"The tone is lively, to appeal to a broad audience; stories that have some meaning, yet while being entertaining. For this reason it's a good book for schools and should keep the attention of young people." Fred Lippincott, First Draft

"Alabama civil rights lawyer Solomon S. Seay presents his memoir of practicing law during the turbulent civil rights era in *Jim Crow and Me: Stories From My Life As A Civil Rights Lawyer*. Raised by a preacher father whom Martin Luther King Jr. himself would cite as mentor and inspiration, Seay studied hard, and was one of only ten black lawyers in all of Alabama when he began his professional practice in 1957. His story is not a uniformly flowing narrative, but rather a series of intense vignettes, evoking the power and difficulty of challenging the old order and bringing a new standard of equality to America as a whole and the South in particular. Highly recommended." Midwest Book

About the Author

In December 1955 Rosa Parks famously sparked the year-long Montgomery Bus Boycott by refusing to honor the city's segregation laws; when she was arrested, the city had just two African-American lawyers, Fred D. Gray and Charles D. Langford, and they represented her. In November 1957, Solomon S. Seay, Jr., became the third African-American lawyer on the civil rights battlefield in Montgomery, Alabama, when he returned home with his law degree from Howard University. For fifty years Seay braved the Ku Klux Klan, Jim Crow laws, and the state of Alabama's entrenched racism in order to desegregate public schools and public accommodations, to protect Freedom Riders and voting rights activists, and to ensure equal justice under the law to African American citizens. Born in Montgomery on December 2, 1931, Seay claims a family heritage of educational excellence and social activism. His maternal great uncle, Arthur H. Madison, graduated from Columbia Law School and gained admission to the Alabama bar on March 10, 1938. His early activism as a civil rights lawyer in Montgomery in efforts to register black voters tragically led to his unfair disbarment in Alabama, but he relocated to New York City and continued a distinguished career. Seay's schoolteacher mother married a legendary preacher in the African Methodist Episcopal Zion church, Rev. Solomon S. Seay, Sr., who served as a key adviser to Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., during the Bus Boycott and following Dr. King and Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy as president of the Montgomery Improvement Association. His sister, Dr. Hagalyn Seay Wilson, was the first black woman to establish a medical office in Montgomery. Solomon Seay, Jr., graduated in 1952 from Livingstone College in Salisbury, North Carolina. He chose to attend law school at Howard University for two reasons: first, the state of Alabama legally barred black students from its state-supported law schools and, instead, financed the legal education for any black student admitted to an out-of-state law school; second, Howard University, located in the nation's capital, then stood in the forefront of civil rights education and trained the constitutional law scholars who would pioneer as this country's black federal judges. A two-year stint in the army interrupted Seay's legal studies and he received his law degree from Howard in 1957. Promptly after passing the Alabama Bar in 1957, Seay put his legal skills to work, partnering first with Fred D. Gray; the Gray-Seay partnership expanded in 1966 to include Charles D. Langford, and Seay practiced with the Gray, Seay-Langford firm for twenty years before continuing in solo practice. During his stellar legal career across the entire state of Alabama, Seay focused primarily on the acquisition of civil rights and the vindication of civil wrongs, and he associated frequently as counsel with the Legal Defense Fund of the NAACP. Seay litigated significant cases in practically every area of civil rights, including race-based and gender-based employment discrimination, access to public accommodations, and police brutality. He secured the release of hordes of Freedom Riders and voting rights activists during the early 1960s and represented many of their distinguished leaders, including Stokeley Carmichael, Congressman John Lewis, Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, Rev. Wyatt T. Walker, Rev. Fred L. Shuttlesworth, Attorneys Percy Sutton and Mark Lane, and Yale chaplain William Sloane Coffin. Seay's litigation forced the desegregation of the city's public parks, desegregation

of courtrooms and courthouse facilities, and opened jury service to blacks in state and federal courts. He is credited with being the most active lawyer for over 40 years in the litigation to enforce desegregation for students, faculty, and staff throughout the state of Alabama's public schools and universities. Commonly known as *Lee v Macon*, this desegregation litigation was the vehicle for enforcing the Supreme Court's 1954 ruling in *Brown v Board of Education*. Delores R. Boyd practiced law for twenty-five years in her hometown of Montgomery, Alabama, before serving as a municipal court judge and a United States Magistrate Judge. Currently a mediator, Boyd is a product of Montgomery's transition in the 1960s from a Jim Crow society. Her high school experience with desegregation is profiled in *Freedoms Children: Young Civil Rights Activists Tell Their Own Stories*.