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**KANSAS CITY, MO, July 29, 2021,** The Southern Christian Leadership Conference of Greater Kansas City announces and mourns the passing of our long-time Board member and community leader Taylor Fields, Esq. He transitioned from this life late Wednesday evening, July 28th, 2021.

In 1974, Taylor Fields started his own law practice, which developed into the largest minority-owned law firm in the Kansas City area. He was a long-term member of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, who recognized his lifetime achievement with the Dean of Trial Award, Jackson County Bar Association, who recognized his lifetime achievement with the Judge Lewis W. Clymer Award and the National Bar Association, who recognized his lifetime achievement with the Cora Walker Legacy Award. He also was inducted in the National Bar Association Hall of Fame.

Taylor Fields served in numerous other community service organizations.

- He was elected to three (3) terms to the Grandview School Board of Education. During this period, the district consistently climbed in academic standards.
- He served as the treasurer of SCLC of GKC for more than 18 years. For more than 25 years, he served as program chairman for the annual Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Celebration. Perhaps one of his most enduring accomplishments on behalf of SCLC and the larger community that SCLC serves was his successful argument before the Missouri supreme court in establishing a livable minimum wage of \$15.00 per hour.
- He served as a lifelong member of the NAACP.
- He also was a member of the Midwesterners social club.
- For more than 25 years, he served on the Matthew Dickey's Board of Directors in St. Louis, Missouri
- He also served as a member of the Board of Directors of the City Union Mission

Recently, SCLC-GKC renamed its venerable scholarship program in Mr. Field's honor, calling the work he loved so much the Taylor Fields, Esq., Scholarship. For almost five decades the scholarship has granted more than \$250,000 in scholarships to young Kansas Citians graduating from high school or continuing their matriculation through college.

Anyone who knew Taylor Fields knew that he had a lifelong passion for black history. He served as chairman of the board of directors of Black Archives of Mid-America. During his service, the black archives became a haven for black articles, art, and news.

Taylor Fields has served faithfully at Paseo Baptist Church since he and his wife became members in 1973. He has served as a trustee for more than 30 years and as chairman of the trustee board for more than 25 years.

Taylor Fields was a proud member of Kappa Alpha Psi, Inc., since he joined the Delta Omega Chapter at the University of Missouri in 1964. He also was appointed to the Board of Directors of the Middle Western Province of the Fraternity.

He is survived by his beloved wife, Delores Fields; his three children, Carla Marie Johnson (Claude Johnson), Wesley Owen Fields, and Denise Frances Fields; his grandchildren, Parker Noel Fields and Kennedy Taylor Johnson; his brother, James Donald Fields (Carole Fields); and his sister, Bernetta Fields. He is also survived by many cousins, nieces and nephews.

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If you would like more information about this topic, please call Rev. Dr. Vernon P. Howard, Jr. at 816-547-0719, or email [drhowardjr@yahoo.com](mailto:drhowardjr@yahoo.com).