



## 2024 UPEI Distinguished Alumni Award

### Alonzo Wright (BA 1989)

Hailing from the Uniacke Square public housing neighborhood of Halifax's North End, the Honourable Judge Alonzo C. Wright arrived at UPEI as a member of the men's basketball team in the fall of 1984. By the time he graduated in the spring of 1989, Alonzo had played on three ACAA championship winning teams. In his final season with UPEI, the team record was 15 wins and 1 loss, on their way to back-to-back championships with Alonzo being named team MVP.

Following his standout athletic career at UPEI, Alonzo returned to his hometown of Halifax to attend Dalhousie University's Schulich School of Law where he received his LLB in 1994 and was called to the Nova Scotia Bar in 1995.

Beginning in 1996, he practiced criminal law as a Crown attorney with the Nova Scotia Public Prosecution Service. As a Crown attorney, he prosecuted some of Nova Scotia's most high-profile criminal cases including homicides, cybercrimes, and sexual assaults. In April 2018, he was granted the designation of Queen's Counsel (now King's Counsel).

Alonzo spent 25 years in public prosecution and was one of the longest tenured Black senior crown attorneys in Nova Scotia before becoming the first African Nova Scotian to be appointed Director of the Serious Incident Response Team (SiRT) in December 2022. SiRT is a civilian-led police oversight agency responsible for conducting investigations into serious incidents involving or arising from the actions of police officers in Nova Scotia. Some of his main goals at the helm of SiRT were to build community relations and to make the organization more transparent.

In addition to his exemplary career as a public prosecutor, Alonzo made a name for himself as a community leader and volunteer in Halifax, receiving numerous awards and accolades for his volunteerism, including the A. Gordon Archibald Award from the Metro Halifax YMCA.

Passionate about coaching and mentoring youth from the diverse and low-income neighborhoods of Halifax's North End, Alonzo coached youth basketball at the Gottingen Street Community Y for more than 20 years. He has also coached for two Halifax area high schools. His commitment to youth basketball led him to gain certification as a referee in 2013. He progressed quickly as a referee, officiating U SPORTS and pro games and at the Canada Summer Games in 2022.

In September 2023, Alonzo was deservedly appointed to the Nova Scotia provincial court. Judge Wright is now one of four African Nova Scotian provincial court judges.

In recognition of his lengthy career as prosecutor, investigator, and judge, and for his lifelong dedication to youth mentorship and volunteerism, the UPEI Alumni Association is proud to present the Honourable Judge Alonzo C. Wright, BA 1989, with a 2024 Distinguished Alumni Award.