

# 56<sup>TH</sup> INAUGURAL

As Barack Obama becomes the first African-American president of the United States, a look at other firsts for U.S. blacks in politics and law:



**2009**  
**Barack Obama**  
President of the United States

## Breaking barriers

### African-American firsts



**2001**  
**Colin Powell**  
Secretary of state



**2001**  
**Condoleezza Rice**  
Female National security advisor

**2000**

**Donna Brazile**  
Manager of a presidential campaign

**1992**

**Carol Moseley Braun**  
Female U.S. senator (Ill.)

**1989**

**Colin Powell**  
Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff

**1989**

**L. Douglas Wilder**  
Elected governor of a state (Va.)

**1977**

**Clifford Alexander Jr.**  
Secretary of the Army

**1977**

**Patricia Harris**  
Female Cabinet secretary (HUD\*)

**1968**

**Shirley Chisholm**  
First female U.S. representative

**1967**

**Thurgood Marshall**  
Justice of the Supreme Court

**1967**

**Carl Stokes**  
Mayor of a large city (Cleveland)

**1966**

**Edward Brooke**  
U.S. senator elected since Reconstruction (Mass.)

**1966**

**Robert C. Weaver**  
Cabinet secretary (HUD\*)

**1960**

**Andrew Hatcher**  
Assistant presidential press secretary

**1955**

**E. Frederic Morrow**  
Hold an executive position on a president's staff

**1944**

**Harry S. McAlpin**  
Reporter to attend White House press conference

**1926**

**Violette N. Anderson**  
Female lawyer admitted to practice before U.S. Supreme Court

**1911**

**William Henry Lewis**  
Appointed to a sub-Cabinet post

**1872**

**Charlotte Ray**  
Female lawyer allowed to practice in Washington, D.C.

**1871**

**Jefferson Franklin Long**  
Speak in House of Representatives as a congressman (Ga.)

**1870**

**Joseph Rainey**  
U.S. representative (S.C.)

**1870**

**Hiram Rhoades Revels**  
U.S. senator (Miss.)

**1865**

**Rev. Henry Highland Garnet**  
Give a speech in the U. S. Capitol

**1865**

**J.S. Rock**  
Lawyer admitted to practice before U.S. Supreme Court



Amsterdam, Netherlands



New Orleans

