



Eastern Regional Conference

THE COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS



Michael Coard

Mr. Coard speaks on Tuesday, August 17 at 10:15 am at the Council on Communities of Color session titled *Race in the State House: Opposing Critical Race Theory*

Michael Coard is a criminal defense attorney with more than 20 years of state and federal trial experience, specializing in murder cases. He is an adjunct professor in the African Studies Department at Temple University and volunteer instructor of Criminal Justice in the university's Pan African Studies Program. He is certified by the Court of Common Pleas to represent indigent defendants in death penalty cases. He received his degree in law from Ohio State University and his undergraduate degree in English Education and Political Science from Cheyney University.

As an attorney, Coard successfully litigated a historic private criminal complaint that sought a murder prosecution of a white police officer who killed an unarmed Black teen. Coard has served as local co-counsel for Mumia Abu-Jamal whose death sentence was vacated. He has served as a Pennsylvania board member of the ACLU and the Philadelphia chapter of the National Lawyers Guild he is a founding member of Judging The Judges as well as "F(ilm) The Police."

Mr. Coard is a recipient of the Philadelphia Bar Association's prestigious Thurgood Marshall Award as well as both the NAACP's and the Barristers Association's prestigious Cecil B. Moore Award. He is a recipient of Cheyney University Alumni Association's Martin Luther King Jr. Spirit Award. Mr. also hosts the "Radio Courtroom" show on WURD96.1-FM and the "TV Courtroom" show on Comcast/Verizon. He also writes columns for the Philadelphia Tribune and Philadelphia Magazine.