



**Smithsonian Institution**

*National Museum of African American History and Culture*

## **Delegate Magazine 1983**

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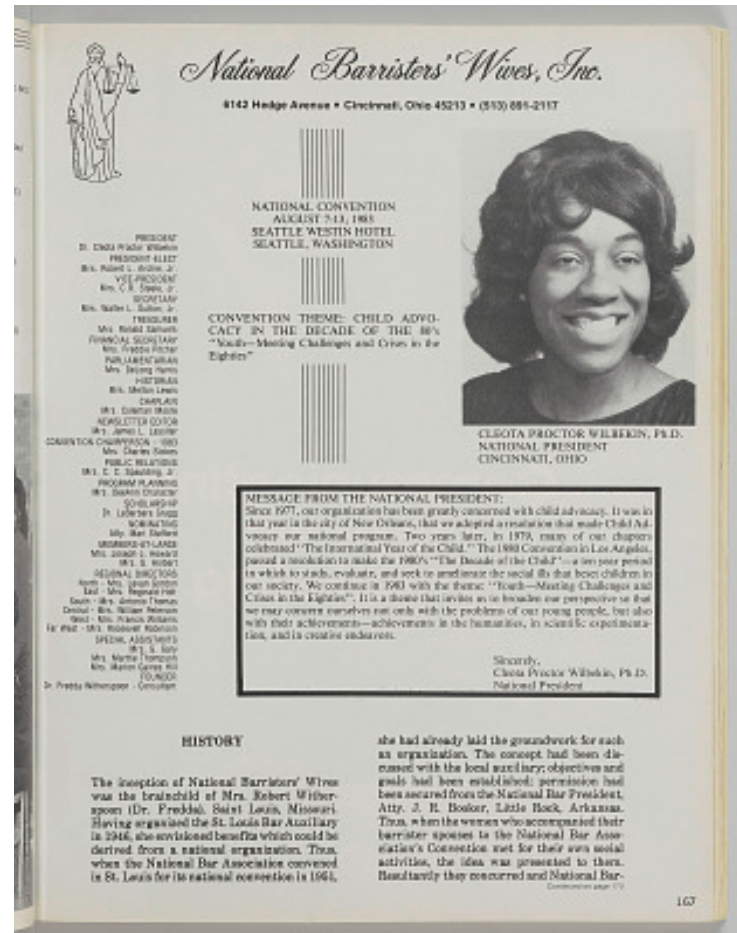
National Barristers' Wives, Inc.  
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NATIONAL CONVENTION  
AUGUST 7-13, 1983  
SEATTLE WESTIN HOTEL  
SEATTLE, WASHINGTON

CONVENTION THEME: CHILD ADVOCACY IN THE DECADE OF THE  
80's "Youth-Meeting Challenges and Crises in the Eighties"

CLEOTA PROCTOR WILBEKIN, Ph.D.



NATIONAL PRESIDENT  
CINCINNATI, OHIO

MESSAGE FROM THE NATIONAL PRESIDENT:

Since 1977, our organization has been greatly concerned with child advocacy. It was in that year in the city of New Orleans, that we adopted a resolution that made Child Advocacy our national program. Two years later, in 1979, many of our chapters celebrated "The International Year of the Child." The 1980 Convention in Los Angeles, passed a resolution to make the 1980's "The Decade of the Child"-- a ten year period in which to study, evaluate, and seek to ameliorate the social ills that beset children in our society. We continue in 1983 with the theme: "Youth-- Meeting Challenges and Crises in the Eighties". It is a theme that invites us to broaden our perspective so that we may concern ourselves not only with the problems of our young people, but also with their achievements-- achievements in the humanities, in scientific experimentation, and in creative endeavors.

Sincerely,  
Cleota Proctor Wilbekin, Ph.D.  
National President

HISTORY

The inception of National Barristers' Wives was the brainchild of Mrs. Robert Witherspoon (Dr. Fredda), Saint Louis, Missouri. Having organized the St. Louis Bar Auxiliary in 1946, she envisioned benefits which could be derived from a national organization. Thus, when the National Bar Association convened in St. Louis for its national convention in 1951, she had already laid the groundwork for such an organization. The concept had been discussed with the local auxiliary; objectives and goals had been established; permission had been secured from the National Bar President, Atty. J.R. Booker, Little Rock, Arkansas. Thus, when the women who accompanied their barrister spouses to the National Bar Association's Convention met for their own social activities, the idea was presented to them. Resultantly they concurred and National Bar-

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