



Dr. Robert T. 'Bob' Starks
Professor Emeritus at The Center for Inner City Studies,
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Educator, political consultant and activist professor, Robert Terry Starks was born on January 24, 1944 in Grenada, Mississippi. He earned his B.S. degree from Chicago's Loyola University in 1968. He earned his M.A. in Political and Urban Studies, also from Loyola, in 1971. In that same year (1971) he began study at the University of Chicago in the PH.D. Program. In 1968, Starks served as a management consultant for Booze Allen and Hamilton and a research specialist for the Chicago Urban League from 1970 to 1972, while studying at U of C. He joined Northeastern Illinois University's Center for Inner City Studies (NEIU CICS) in 1972. Starks was the founder of the Black Studies Program and served as the Director and Associate Professor of Political Science. He served as Professor of Political Science and Inner City Studies until retirement in 2015.

Starks served as an issues advisor to Reverend Jesse L. Jackson and political advisor to the late Chicago mayor, Harold Washington. He was the Chair of the Free South Africa Movement of Chicago in 1984 and was appointed by Rev. Jesse Jackson as Chair of the Nelson Mandela Visit to Rainbow Push in 1991. He was the founding chair of the Task Force for Black Political Empowerment.

From 1991 to 2011, Starks founded and led the Harold Washington Institute for Research and Policy Studies at NEIU CICS. In 1988 and 1989 Starks was a contributing columnist for *Crain's Chicago Business* and from 1991 to 2011, he was political editor and columnist for *N'DIGO* under the title "A Stark Look". In 2015 to 2017 he served as a contributing columnist at the *Chicago Defender*. He was a contributing editor to the national political publication *Urban Affairs Quarterly*. Starks served as a host of the *On Target* program on WVON Radio and has appeared on ABC-TV's Nightline, the Today Show, C-SPAN, CNN News, CNN's Crossfire, WTTW Chicago Tonight, WGN TV News, NBC Channel 5, Channel 32, CBS Channel 2 and Channel 7 TV. He has been quoted as an Analyst on Black Politics in Chicago and nationally in the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Huffington Post*, and all of the Chicago newspapers; additionally, he has been quoted in numerous books, magazines and other publications. His article "Harold Washington and the Politics of Reform" appeared in *Racial Politics in American Cities* by Rufus Browning.

Starks is a long serving member of the board of directors for Black United Fund of Illinois, Inc (BUFI).

A recipient of a Treasure of Community award, Starks lives in Hyde Park with his wife, Judith. His children Kenya and Robert now have their own families and live in Chicago. Starks has contributed chapters to many books and he is working on to complete his book on the political life of Harold Washington.

