

## Don Barksdale Court – Request & Biography

### Request

To honor the significant contributions Don Barksdale made to the Marin Community College District and to society, College of Marin's basketball court should become "Don Barksdale Court."

### Biography

Don Barksdale was an American basketball player who helped break down social and racial barriers to make way for future generations of African American athletes. Barksdale, who played at College of Marin from 1941 to 1942, became the first African American basketball player to be named an NCAA All-American (1947), be on the US Olympic Basketball Team (1948), first of four African Americans drafted to the National Basketball Association (1950) and the first to be named to the NBA All-Star Team (1953).

Don Barksdale was raised in Oakland, CA. Although he was not allowed to play on his Berkeley High School basketball team, he was said to have sharpened his basketball skills in neighborhood parks. By the time he arrived at College of Marin he was a formidable player. He helped lead the team to the California Junior College Championship in both 1942 and 1943.

Barksdale took a scholarship to play at UCLA where he helped end a 42-game losing streak against rival USC before joining the U.S. Army to serve in WWII. He returned to UCLA and led the team to a championship in the 1946-47 season. That year, Barksdale was the first African-American consensus NCAA All-American basketball player.

In 1948 he was the first black member of the U.S. Olympic basketball team, a team that won the gold medal. He was the third-leading scorer on the U.S. team. In 1949 he was voted "Outstanding U.S. Basketball Player."

In 1950 he was one of the first four Black players taken in the NBA draft. But, according to the LA Times, he was doing so well financially, having opened a successful beer distributorship by then, that he did not sign with the Baltimore Bullets until 1951. That year he was a Pan-American basketball gold medal winner. At 28 years of age, he played forward for the Bullets and also hosted the team's postgame radio show. He was the first African-American to play in the NBA All-Star game in 1953.

Upon his retirement from basketball, he was a pioneering entrepreneur in the entertainment industry. He was the first San Francisco Bay Area African-American disk jockey and television host. He moderated a program called "Sepia Revue" featuring big name Black entertainers such as Duke Ellington, Count Basie, Nat King Cole, Sammy Davis Jr., and Louis Armstrong. He would eventually open his own recording studio. He founded Save High School Sports, a fundraising effort in Oakland to support local athletics threatened by a budget crunch in the 1980s.

### Related Content:

1. [Don Barksdale, first black NBA All-Star, paved way for nearly all-black 2016 game](#)
2. [Filmmaker Doug Harris discusses the lasting impact of Oakland native Don Barksdale, the first African American to make an NBA All-Star Team](#)
3. [Basketball's Forgotten Experiment: Don Barksdale and the Legacy of the United States Olympic Basketball Team](#)
4. [Basketball Hall of Fame: Don Barksdale](#)
5. [Don Barksdale Bio in the Jim Crow museum.](#)
6. [Segment from an award winning documentary about Don Barksdale, called "Bounce"](#)

## David Wain Coon

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**From:** Walter Turner  
**Sent:** Sunday, May 17, 2020 12:05 PM  
**To:** David Wain Coon; Ryan T Byrne  
**Cc:** Troy Stevenson; Tonya Hersch  
**Subject:** Don Barksdale basketball court at the College of Marin

President Coon

College of Marin Umoja is excited to support the renaming of the College of Marin basketball court as the Don Barksdale Court.

Umoja had the opportunity to meet with Director Byrne at the end of last semester and expressed our 100% support for the project.

We are proud that Don Barksdale played for College of Marin during championship years and went on to be the first African American named to the National Basketball Association All-Star team. In his life path and tenacity Mr. Barksdale fought and was successful in breaking down racial and social barriers to open the door for African American athletes and their communities.

Not only was Don Barksdale an outstanding basketball player but his contributions to the Bay Area and beyond were most significant-especially for the African American community. Many African Americans in the Bay Area remember his tenure on soul music radio station KDIA where he was known as "Big Daddy Don Barksdale." KDIA was a major voice for the African American community throughout the 1950's into the 90's.

Please move this proposal through College Council and then onward to the College of Marin Board of Trustees. Umoja has had some preliminary discussions with Director Byrne and discussed program and publicity. Professor Troy Stevenson, who works directly with the athletic department, will be taking a leadership role in the project and be supported by the entire Umoja team.

Many thanks President Coon for endorsing this effort and most importantly for your support of Umoja from the beginning at the College of Marin.

We look forward to the renaming ceremony.

Please let me know what you need from COM Umoja.

Respectfully

Walter Turner, Coordinator  
College of Marin Umoja



## Board of Trustees

**BP 2800 NAMING OF BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES****References:**

No legal references

This policy is intended to establish and manage the process to ensure consistency, uniformity, fitting recognition, and good value in exchange for the honor or privilege of the name association with the District. Naming opportunities shall support the strategic goals of the District by focusing fiscal resources on its institutional values and priorities, and shall serve the District's mission. Specific selection of names should be consistent with the District's role as a public trust.

The Board of Trustees shall have the final responsibility for the naming, changing names, or removing names of buildings, facilities and grounds within the District. All recommendations for naming shall be submitted to the Board of Trustees by the Superintendent/President, following an appropriate nomination and review process. No commitment for naming shall be made to a donor or honoree prior to Board approval of the proposed naming opportunity in the form of a Board resolution.

Naming opportunities provide the District with occasion to recognize exceptional contributions to the campus and community. Such contributions enrich and strengthen the District and its sense of heritage and are significant events in the history of the institution. Therefore, it is the policy of the Board to approve names for District buildings, facilities and grounds that recognize a significant contribution(s) to the District.

Naming may be made for an individual, family, organization, non-profit foundation or corporation. No building, facility or grounds shall be named for a religious or political organization, cult, service organization or a special interest group of any type.

**General Rationale**

Naming a facility for an individual, organization, or corporation is one of the highest honors that the District can bestow. This recognition is a lasting and powerful affirmation of the honoree's connection to the District's mission. As such, honorees shall have exemplary character, an unqualified reputation for honesty, personal integrity and the highest standards of personal and professional ethics.

Each proposal for naming shall be considered on its own merits. In all cases, due diligence must be performed and observed to ensure that proposed names are suitable to the District. The Superintendent/President shall convene an ad hoc committee composed of appropriate representatives of the Board of Trustees, faculty, and administrative staff to review the proposed name before the Superintendent/President submits the proposal to the full Board of Trustees.

The naming of District buildings, facilities, or grounds neither implies nor constitutes legal ownership by the individual or group for whom it has been named. The naming of a District building, facility, or ground also does not imply any obligation to the named individual or group beyond the maintenance of the commemorative identification of the facility.

### **Naming Criteria**

The Board of Trustees shall consider any of the following conditions as appropriate reason for the naming of a building, facility or grounds:

1. To designate the function of or discipline to be served by a building or facility, or the mission or purpose of a program, if applicable and permitted;
2. In honor of an individual, family, organization, non-profit foundation or corporation which has made a major, significant financial contribution to the District;
3. In recognition of an individual who has made a significant contribution of service to the District;
4. To reflect natural or local area geographic features.

In special circumstances, the Board of Trustees may waive any or all of the above criteria.

### **Acceptable Forms of Donations**

In recognition and appreciation of an individual, family, organization, non-profit foundation or corporation for significant financial or service contributions, the District may name buildings, facilities, or grounds in honor of significant contributors of funds or service to the District according to the following guidelines:

1. Acceptable forms of gifts to result in a naming include: cash, appreciated securities, real property, and under special circumstances, life income gifts (charitable remainder trusts), gifts through estate planning, and gift-in-kind. Naming opportunities shall be available for a deferred gift if the gift is irrevocable and the District is provided with a copy of the duly signed and executed estate planning document designating the gift as irrevocable. In most cases, gifts may be made through legally binding pledges fulfilled within no more than five years.
2. In instances when private funds are needed to pay for immediate remodeling, renovation and/or construction, donations made through irrevocable deferred gift techniques shall not be accepted. A naming opportunity may, however, be accepted for an existing, unnamed facility not requiring major remodeling or renovation as long as the irrevocable deferred gift technique has been analyzed and approved by an actuarial study and depreciated over the life expectancy of the donor.
3. The Board shall take into consideration the significance and amount of the proposed gift or gifts or service as either or all relate to the realization, completion or enhancement of a facility or property.

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Date Adopted: April 20, 2010

*(Replaces College of Marin Policy 8.0003)*

**Reviewed/Revised:** November 14, 2017