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In Memoriam: Milton Brent Oldham

David J. Agatstein
Brent Oldham, the eighth president of the National Association of Administrative Law Judges, died in Washington, D.C. on July 10, 1992. He was 83 years old. Brent had been a member and honorary member of the Association since 1977. Brent had a long career in economics, college teaching and government service.

Brent Oldham was born in Dayton, Ohio on June 3, 1909. He was a descendant of an ex-slave Emma Awkward. Brent was the son of Howard University graduate Milton Percival Oldham (Preparatory Department Certificate, 1901, and Howard Law School, 1908) and Mabel Elisabeth Brent. He was educated in the public schools of St. Louis, Missouri and Asbury Park, New Jersey and earned a Bachelor's Degree in Commerce from Howard University (1937), and a Masters Degree in Business Administration from New York University's Graduate School of Business. Later, he took advanced courses in economics at American University.

Brent Oldham's faculty appointments included posts at Lincoln University, Jefferson City, Missouri (1939-1942); Acting Director, Division of Business, Hampton Institute, Virginia (1948-1950); Morgan State College, Baltimore, Maryland (1953-1955); and Howard University, Department of Business, Evening School (1943-1945). In 1971 he taught at the Washington Technical Institute's Department of Business.

Brent Oldham was an economist with the Office of Price Administration and the War Production Board during World War II. After the war he was a financial analyst with the New York city Rent Commission. In 1950 he was an analyst with the Wage Stabilization Board and later was an administrative officer. He joined the Labor Department's Bureau of International Labor Affairs in 1955 as a foreign national officer. In 1962, he became area coordinator of the Commerce Department's Area Redevelopment Administration and later was chief of the Lakes State Division.

In 1968, Brent Oldham was designated Commerce Department liaison to the office of Mayor Walter Washington of Washington, D.C. to help coordinate economic development in the city. He became head of the redevelopment corporation later that year.

Brent Oldham also served as chairman of the Georgetown Day School, trustee of the Washington Teachers Union Scholarship Fund, treasurer of the Friends of the Howard University Chapel, consultant to the Children's Education Fund and a member of Americans for Democratic Action. Last year he was coordinator of the "Breaking the Drug Chain", global policy project of the United Nations Association in Washington, D.C.

Brent Oldham was president of the National Association Administration Law Judges from 1982-1983.

His survivors include his wife of 43 years, Virginia Aldridge Oldham of Washington, D.C.; three children from his first marriage, Milton Oldham, Kendrick Oldham and Patricia Oldham; a son from his second marriage, Dr. Brent Aldridge Oldham of Seattle; and two grandsons.