

# AUTHOR BIO

## Very Short (62 words)

Otis L. Lee, Jr. is an attorney turned author who is African-American. He achieved personal and professional success despite the odds of growing up during a time of segregation and Jim Crow laws. Today he shares his insights and experiences through writing, video shorts and speaking engagements. Additional information is posted on his Facebook page (Otis Lee Author) and his website ([www.otislee.com](http://www.otislee.com)).

## Short (180 words)

Otis L. Lee, Jr. grew up in Georgia and Virginia, the son of schoolteachers who valued education, hard work and self-reliance. He attended “black” Virginia schools, first in Charlottesville and later in Richmond. Outside the classroom he studied piano and developed a love of theatre. He improved his vocabulary by reading the dictionary. By his early teens, Lee was a voracious reader and a hard-working student. He would go on to attend the historic black university, Howard University in Washington, D.C., for both undergraduate studies and law school. Lee has practiced law in Philadelphia, PA and Charlottesville, VA. He was a director of the Center For Banking in the School of Business at Howard University. Lee’s first book, a memoir, is “From South Boston to Cambridge: the Making of One Philadelphia Lawyer.” His second book is “Last Train From Djibouti,” inspired by the true story of his wife and her mentor as they make their separate journeys to Africa. Lee shares his insights and experiences through writing, video shorts and speaking engagements. Additional information is posted on his Facebook page (Otis Lee Author) and his website ([www.otislee.com](http://www.otislee.com)).

## Full Length (436 words)

Otis L. Lee, Jr. is an attorney turned author, an African-American who achieved personal and professional success despite the odds of growing up during a time of segregation and Jim Crow laws. Today he shares his insights and experiences through writing, video shorts and speaking engagements.

Lee’s first book, a memoir, *From South Boston to Cambridge: the Making of One Philadelphia Lawyer* chronicles his journey as he takes on one obstacle after another. One particularly poignant memory is that of Otis as a youngster watching his father beg a white clerk to sell him dinner for the family. Lee goes on to share other life-changing experiences and memories, such as the hurdles he surmounted to become a lawyer, relationships and the loss of his father. Throughout the memoir, as the reader travels Lee’s path with him, honesty prevails.

Otis Lee is currently in the editing stage of his second book *Last Train From Djibouti*, a work of nonfiction

inspired by the true story of two women who travel to Africa on separate missions in search of fulfillment. What they encounter, however, are realities that dispel their illusions. But in the process, they find a greater sense of self, an appreciation of their African ancestry, and their place in America. It is based on the true experiences of Lee's wife, Dr. Michelle Palmer Lee, and her mentor Dr. Harriett F. Karuhije.

Otis L. Lee, Jr. was born in South Boston, VA, in the southernmost part of the state, less than 40 miles from the North Carolina state line, the only child of two teachers entrenched in the segregated school system of the southern states during the time of *Plessy v. Ferguson* and then under *Brown v. Board of Education*. He attended both undergraduate and law school at Howard University in Washington, DC.

Practicing law in Philadelphia, PA and Charlottesville, VA, Lee developed success in estate planning, general law practice, and as a trial lawyer. He also developed a successful real estate business and served on the faculties of several universities.

His career has also included serving as Trust New Business Solicitor at Harris Trust and Savings Bank, Chicago, IL; Panel Executive for the Panel on Product Liability and Associate Director of the Center for Small Business at the United States Chamber of Commerce in Washington, DC as well as an Advance Underwriting Consultant for the Mid-Atlantic Region for the New York Life Insurance Company.

Lee currently splits his time between Virginia and southeastern North Carolina. He shares his insights and experiences through writing, video shorts and speaking engagements. Additional information is posted on his Facebook page (Otis Lee Author) and his website ([www.otislee.com](http://www.otislee.com)).