



# PRESS RELEASE

## **AFRICAN-AMERICAN ATTORNEY GROWS UP UNDER JIM CROW, SHARES POIGNANT STORY AND NECESSARY STRENGTHS FOR ACHIEVING SUCCESS**

Otis L. Lee, Jr. is an attorney, an African-American who achieved personal and professional success despite the odds of growing up during a time of segregation and Jim Crow laws. In his poignant memoir, *From South Boston to Cambridge: the Making of One Philadelphia Attorney*, the attorney turned author chronicles his journey as he maneuvers many obstacles, forges successful careers in both real estate and law, survives a life-threatening series of cardiac events in his early 40s and finally raises his much loved sons to flourishing adulthood.

Lee 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 *Brown v. Board of Education*. He attended black-only grade school and high school. He went on to attend Howard University, the historically black university in Washington, DC for both his undergraduate and law studies. After graduation he practiced law in both Charlottesville, VA and Philadelphia, PA.

The memoir, which began as a legacy for Lee's two sons, traces the family history from Patrick Moon, Lee's great-great-grandfather born in 1795, a slave in Halifax county, VA and Amos Lee, a slave in the Confederate Army to the present with genealogical research, family papers and many historical photos.

Reviews for the book have been positive and eloquent:

“This is not just a story of race, of black and white; this is a coming of age story, in which the protagonist longs to “sing his own song” but first has to discover what that song is through life’s struggles and setbacks.”

– *Justin R. Wert, Editor, Associate Professor English, Piedmont Virginia Community College*

“It is a remarkable journey into the innermost parts of his life as a young boy growing up in the segregated south where Jim Crow laws were used to stifle the aspirations of young black boys and girls ... Seeing life through his eyes has given me a greater perspective of the power of the human spirit. “  
– Frank S. James, MD

Lee is currently in the editing stage of his second book *Last Train From Djibouti*, a work in creative 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. Lee expects *Last Train From Djibouti* to publish in late 2017.

Lee, who currently splits his time between Virginia and southeastern North Carolina, speaks regularly about his writing and experiences. He also maintains a Facebook page (Otis Lee Author) and a website ([www.otislee.com](http://www.otislee.com)), where he posts scheduled events, videos, news and other information.

He can be reached via email at [otis@otislee.com](mailto:otis@otislee.com) or by telephone at 434-293-9977 to schedule speaking engagements or for other information.

***About Otis L. Lee, Jr.***

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)).

