

Memorandum

— of —

Richard E. King, colored,

— of —

Baltimore, Md.

Praying for admission to the
bar of Maryland.

May 20 18 54.

Referred to the Committee on

Judiciary

Respectfully

Indy

VICE PRESIDENT'S CHAMBER
WASHINGTON.

+

11

A memorial from Richard
E. King colored petitioner for
admission as an attorney at law
in Maryland -

To the Honorable President and
members of the Senate of the United
States - Gentlemen I respectfully
call your attention to the disgrace-
ful enactment existing in the
State Code of Maryland which
excludes colored men from
practicing the law as attorneys
on account of their color - I am
a colored young man a native
and a citizen of Maryland, and
I have acquired a thorough
scholastic and professional
education, in all the leading
branches of the English and
American common law. Not-
withstanding I am excluded from
practicing my profession on
account of my color - I was
educated in the New England States,
after which I returned home
to Maryland last Fall, and was
and have been since prohibit-
ed from practicing as an attorney
at law, on account of my color.

2

I appealed to the Legislature last winter asking for amendment in the state law for the admission of colored men to the bar of Md. but our State Court and Legislature has refused to admit any colored attorneys at law. See the spirit of our State Court and Legislature, Maryland State Code Article 59, Section 3rd, and 4th vol. Md. St. Rept. 27 in which it is declared that all colored men are excluded from the bar of Md, it matters not what their professional abilities or qualities may be - It has long been an established rule that all laws should be founded upon common sense, sound policy and not in total restraint of any trade, profession or avocation of life. And it is also a fact, that the trades union are closed against the colored men and colored women of Maryland - The same spirit exist in our Baltimore City public schools, which exclude all colored persons from teaching in any of the public schools of Baltimore on account of

their color - In short the colored
 people are not treated as
 American citizens in Mary-
 land. The decision in Dred Scott
 Case seems to be the law of the
 which decides that a colored man
 has no rights which a white man
 was bound to respect - We have
 some colored teachers in some
 of the County Schools teaching
 at half price on salary that are
 paid to ~~white~~ teachers - The
 schools for colored people in Mary-
 land is in a worst condition than
 in any other state, and in most
 districts of the counties there are
 scarcely any provision what-
 ever made for the education of
 the colored people - The colored peo-
 ple are so greatly depressed that they
 are leaving the state rapidly - The
 white people have the advantage
 of high schools, Academies
 and Colleges all are supported
 from the public treasure and
 all the colored schools have been
 a primary grade and nothing
 higher has ever been established

for colored people in this State, and
 in Baltimore City, there are only a body
 of second class Irish teachers presiding
 over the colored schools, and I think
 the whole ^{thing} is a disgrace to any peo-
 ple - I love my people and I speak
 for them, and am anxious to have the
 question tested in the National Court,
 for the admission of colored attorneys
 at law in Maryland, I shall have it
 tested soon after I have received
 contributions or subscriptions
 enough from the kind public, which
 I hope will be sent to me - I think that
 Maryland should be excluded from
 receiving any part of the Blair
 Educational Bill, and from every
 other appropriation on similar
 bases while Maryland makes a
 discrimination on account
 of color or previous condition
 of servitude - I am yours very
 devoted, colored petitioner, for
 admission to the bar of Mary-
 land, Richard E. King
 144 Hill Street Baltimore
 Maryland

May 19 - 1884

thankfully