The University of Pittsburgh
School of Health and Rehabilitation Sciences and Office of Health Sciences Diversity present

Wendell G. Freeland, Esq.
President of the Urban League of Pittsburgh, senior vice-president of the National Urban League, Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies, Board of Trustees of the University of Pittsburgh, Westminster College and the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center, and co-founder of Hill House Association.

“What You Should Know About Some of Our Past”
Thursday, January 31, 2013, 3:00pm-5:00pm
Forbes Tower, Room 4060
300 Meyran Avenue in Oakland
Free and open to the public

Wendell G. Freeland was born in Baltimore, Maryland on February 21, 1925. In 1946 Jane Young and he were married. They have two adult children, Michael W. and Lisa B., and two adult grandchildren: Kristen Alexis and Michael W., Jr. Freeland attended the then-called “colored schools” of Baltimore and graduated from Frederick Douglass High School in 1941. He won a scholarship to Howard University. After service as a Tuskegee Airman in World War II, he was graduated cum laude in 1947. He earned his law degree from the University of Maryland School of Law in 1950, with honors. He was the first African American elected to the Order of the Coif, an honorary legal fraternity. Freeland is particularly proud of his service as a bombardier with the 477th Bombardment Group, a component of Tuskegee Airmen. He was a part of what is now called "The Freeman Field Mutiny," a precursor to the sit-ins of the civil rights movement. He and others were arrested for asserting their right to enter a "whites only" officers club. The actions of the Tuskegee Airmen led President Harry S. Truman to ban discrimination in the military. Freeland came to Pittsburgh in 1950 and was admitted to the bar here in 1951. He has been active in the practice of law at the state and federal level in the trial and appellate courts. One of the first matters he was involved in was the Highland Park Swimming Pool case in which Richard F. Jones, Henry R. Smith and he sued the city to assure the safety of African Americans who tried to swim there. In 2010, he convinced the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania to admit posthumously George Vashon, an African American attorney who was twice rejected by the Allegheny County Bar, in 1847 and again in 1868, and who was later admitted to practice not only in New York, but also before the U.S. Supreme Court.