



JAMES D. CARR

Born in 1868 in Baltimore, Carr became the Rutgers College Grammar School valedictorian in 1888. He continued his academic achievements after matriculating at Rutgers College. He received numerous honors and prizes, including being inducted into Phi Beta Kappa as a junior. Carr later attended Columbia Law School, graduating with an L.L.B. in 1896. Demonstrating deep Law Department values, Carr protested Rutgers College's decision in 1919 to pull Paul Robeson (later a prominent activist, actor and singer) from a game when the opposing all-white team refused to play football against someone of color. Carr wrote, "The Trustees and Faculty of

James Dickson Carr (1868-1920) Celebrated as Rutgers University's first Black graduate, James Dickson Carr is also believed to be the Law Department's first Assistant Corporation Counsel of color. His impressive 16-year Law Department career began in 1904, when he started in our then-Bureau of the Recovery of Penalties. In time, Carr would be in charge of the litigation of abandonment, aged parent and "bastardly" proceedings.

Rutgers College should disavow the action of an athletic manager who dishonored her ancient traditions by denying to one of her students, solely on the account of his color, equality of opportunity and privilege." When Carr died in 1920, he was "months away from assuming an appointment to the New York City bench by Mayor John Hylan," according to *The New York Times*.

*Image of James Dickson Carr Courtesy of Special Collections and University Archives, Rutgers University Libraries.