

Lawyer Unit Funds Aid Angela Davis

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By a Washington Post Staff Writer

ATLANTA, Aug. 7 — Charging that a "repressive grand jury system" denied Angela Davis her constitutional rights, the National Bar Association (NBA) pledged \$2,500 to her defense today.

The predominately black association of judges, lawyers and law professors ended its 46th annual meeting here after declaring that Miss Davis, accused of murder and conspiracy in the death of a California judge, had been held in pre-trial detention "for an unprecedented period of time."

Condemning California's handling of the case involving Miss Davis, an avowed Communist and former philosophy professor at University of California at Los Angeles, the National Bar called her case "another fine example of the dual system of justice that has permeated criminal jurisprudence in this country."

NBA also asserted that Miss Davis "has been adversely prejudged by high public officials, the news media, and other nonjudicial forces to the extent that a fair and impartial trial is virtually impossible."

The NBA said it would "demand an unbiased, impartial observance of the law and rules of practice" in the case of Miss Davis, due to go on trial in Marin County, Calif., in the fall. Miss Davis is accused in the murder of Judge Harold Haley of San Rafael. He was killed in a kidnap attempt last August.

The Judicial Council, a new organization of judges founded at the NBA convention this year, elected Detroit Recorder's Court Judge George W. Crockett Jr. as its first chairman and two Washington, D.C., judges to leadership positions.

They are Superior Court Judges William S. Thompson, Treasurer, and Harry T. Alexander, a member of the 17 member executive board.

The Judicial Council will meet next month to formulate its plans, but it has already decided to seek an early meeting with President Nixon to impress upon him the determination of the black legal community to work for the appointment of more black federal judges, particularly in the South, where no blacks now serve.

James Cobb, a Washington lawyer, was installed as the new president of the NBA, replacing Wayne County Circuit Court Judge Edward F. Bell.

Judge Bell was praised as "the man who brought NBA kicking and screaming into the second half of the 20th century."

Judge Bell's leadership is credited for the formation of the new Judicial Council.