

Slightly edited email sent to a Jewish friend and former grad. school classmate about Professor Ogletree, President Obama's former Law Professor and advisor -

<Lmo@aol.com>

Date: Fri, Aug 11, 2023 at 1:57 PM

Subject: My son about your house

Hi L,

Regarding Harvard professor Charles Ogletree who passed away. You've read that, right. My son said while your house was the first big house he went into, Harvard Law Professor Ogletree was the first Black person's spacious home he sat in. The late Jesse Climenko Professor of Law at Harvard, Charles J. Ogletree, Jr. would let Cambridge High school students hold their Black Student Union meetings in his North Cambridge family home. My son said Professor Ogletree's daughter was a senior or junior when he was a freshman at Cambridge Rindge & Latin School. As a former IT staff at the Harvard Law School, my son would go to trouble shoot issues in the professor's computer. I only used to chat with Professor Ogletree after the Charles Hamilton Houston Institute for Race and Justice lectures.

However, way before he started the Charles Hamilton lectures in 2005, I knew of Professor Ogletree since the mid-1990s when he and his wife Pam were opening the Banneker Charter school at the former Our Lady of Pity church premise. It's a church community that my parents and 12 to 15 Haitian families started in the early 1970s. I attended my first mass there on December 1973 as a young teenage emigrant. By the 1990s I was a member of *Comité Paroissial*, the Haitian subcommittee of the Parish Council and knew when church properties were being bequeathed, sold, and/or rented. As aforementioned, that's how I first knew about Professor Charles Ogletree.

The late Harvard Law Professor Ogletree served the Black community while occupying prominent positions in the mainstream world which most Black academics don't. His wife Pam Ogletree ran the Children's Services of Roxbury as its President and CEO. I like his engagement and that of his wife in the wider Black community.

I was very sad upon hearing Prof. Ogletree had dementia, then Alzheimer in his early 60s. Professor Charles Ogletree, Dr. Paul Farmer, and Rev. Thomas Stegman, S.J, a Jesuit New Testament professor of mine when he was an apprentice professor under the late Father Daniel Harrington, SJ, are three Harvard square accomplished professionals whom I have followed or have been with since the early days of their career or their entire professional work life. Sad to see them gone by 60. Professor Ogletree was alive at 60, but he wasn't cognitively functioning. He started having dementia symptoms at 62, 63 which is young.

Any event, let's take our productive life seriously while living one day at a time and joying every day of our lives doing what we like and be with our loved ones. My sister and these highly achieving down to earth academics, productive professionals gone or cognitively non functional by 60 years old will mark me for the rest of my life. Keep being intellectually, socially and physically active, but don't stress yourself too much.

Your longtime friend,

Nekita

As a response to my email, my friend sent me some links about Professor Ogletree's fishing experience which I wasn't aware of as someone who knew Dr. Ogletree since the mid-1990s when he and his wife were engaged in formalities to start the Banneker Charter school in the former Our Lady of Pity premise. As mentioned as a member of the Parish Council then, I was aware of parish real estate proceedings.

Here are the links shared by my Jewish friend:

<https://www.bostonglobe.com/lifestyle/style/2013/08/16/charles-ogletree-law-professor-and-obama-confidant-still-hopes-take-president-fishing/jzwfjQVoBSrlixBvRucKWN/story.html>

<https://www.thecrimson.com/article/1999/9/23/law-school-professor-rescued-at-sea/>

Here's a great story. Begin at 32:30 minutes...

<https://s3.amazonaws.com/themoth-audio-development/MRH1406-MP316-LiveOnMarthasVineyard-2-12-19.mp3>