

**BLACKS IN GOVERNMENT (BIG)
EPA-William D. Barber, Jr. Chapter**

Blacks in Government, Inc. (BIG) was established in 1975, by a small group of African American employees at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in Rockville, Maryland, and incorporated as a non-profit organization under the District of Columbia jurisdiction in 1976. BIG's purpose is to be an advocate of equal opportunity and professional development for Black government. Its' mission is to promote equity, excellence and opportunity through advocacy, professional development and empowerment of African Americans; provide a mechanism for inclusion, growth and advocacy, and to function as an employee support and resource group for African American civil servants at the municipal, state and federal government levels, as well as others dedicated to justice for all Americans. BIG has been a national response to the need for African Americans in public service to organize around issues of mutual concern and use their collective strength to confront workplace and community issues. BIG works to promote EQUITY in all aspects of American life, EXCELLENCE in public service, and OPPORTUNITY for all Americans.

The William D. Barber, Jr. Chapter, at EPA Headquarters was started some 30 plus years ago and earned its' name from a gentleman who was very much an advocate for employee's rights and fairness as the Chapters' first President. Since its' inception, the Chapter has been very much involved in the advocacy of employees, employees knowledgeable of the tools and resources available to them to advance their careers and lives, as well as creating methods to obtain them. Over the years, many of the William D. Barber, Jr., members have retired, transitioned or just simply moved on, however, the Chapter continues to remain a force as there are currently over 90 members with the majority being lifetime members.

Finally, for more information or to become involved, feel free to contact the LaShan Haynes, President at (703)605-0516, Haynes.LaShan@epa.gov, or the Chapter visit www.bigwdbjr.org.