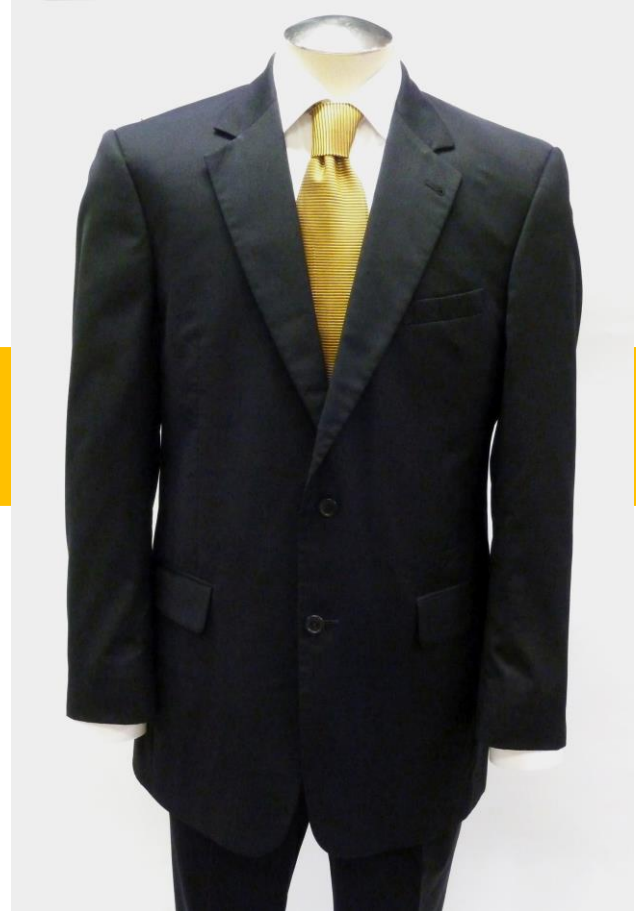


NOTABLE MISSOURIANS AND TIGERS COLLECTION

**Michael A. Middleton (BA, University of Missouri '68;
JD, University of Missouri '71)**

**Third Black Graduate of MU School of Law and First Black Faculty
Member in MU School of Law**



Michael Middleton was the third Black student to graduate from the University of Missouri's School of Law (JD, '71.) During his time as a student at Mizzou, Middleton was a founding member of the Legion of Black Collegians. After graduating in 1971, Middleton maintained an illustrious career with the federal government. After serving as a trial attorney in the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, Middleton was appointed Assistant Deputy Director of the Office for Civil Rights at the Department of Health, Education and Welfare in 1977.

Middleton also served as Director of the Office of Systemic Programs for the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) and as principal deputy assistant secretary for Civil Rights at the Department of Education, after which he was appointment Associate General Counsel of the EEOC's trial division. He later returned to St. Louis as director of the St. Louis district office of the EEOC. Middleton began his tenure at the University of Missouri in 1985 as the School of Law's first Black faculty member. In 1997 Middleton served as the Interim Vice Provost for Minority Affairs and Faculty Development and as Deputy Chancellor from 1998 to August 2015. From December 2015 to March 2017 Michael Middleton served as Interim President of the University of Missouri system. In 2018 he was appointed interim president of Lincoln University, an historically black public University in Jefferson City, Missouri. The University of Missouri's Michael A. Middleton Center for Race, Citizenship and Justice is named in his honor. Middleton's life is celebrated in the 2019 documentary film *Only the Educated Are Free: The Journey of Michael A. Middleton* (<https://vimeo.com/354750848>) by the University of Missouri's Academic Support Center.

ARTIFACT: Black wool suit ensemble, 2000s. Gifts of Michael Middleton. Portrait image courtesy of MU Marketing and Communications.