



# The Clerk's Black History Series

## Debra DeBerry Clerk of Superior Court DeKalb County



## Ella Fitzgerald & Count Basie

(May 4, 1959)

“First African-American Grammy Winners”



The first Grammy awards ceremony was held simultaneously in two locations on May 4, 1959 - at the Beverly Hilton Hotel in Beverly Hills California, and the Park Sheraton Hotel in New York City, to honor the musical accomplishments of performers for 1958. Initially the awards were called the First Annual Awards Banquet of the National Academy of Recording Arts and Sciences. Only 28 Grammys were awarded that night, the least amount of Grammys awarded ever.



Ella Fitzgerald won Best Vocal Performance, Female for Ella Fitzgerald Sings The Irving Berlin Songbook and Best Jazz Vocal Performance, Individual for Ella Fitzgerald Sings The Duke Ellington Songbook.



Count Basie won in the category of Best Jazz Performance Group and Best Performance by a Dance Band.

In the years that followed, Ella Fitzgerald would take home 13 Grammys with a total of 20 nominations. Count Basie won nine Grammy Awards, with 20 nominations.

