Retired Baltimore Civil Rights Attorney Chris Brown has published a book titled, “The Road to Jim Crow, the African American Struggle on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, 1860-1915.” According to the press release, “Making extensive use of primary sources, C. Christopher Brown has broken new ground and filled a long overlooked gap in Maryland history.”

The book is the story of African Americans on Maryland’s Eastern Shore, from the promise-filled days following the end of slavery to the rise of lynching, segregation, and systematic efforts at disenfranchisement. Resisting, as best they could, attempts of the Democratic “White Man’s” Party to render them second-class citizens, it tells of how Black communities rallied to their churches and fought determinedly to properly educate their children and gain a measure of political power. The Eastern Shore’s Cambridge, guided by savvy and energetic leaders, became a political and cultural center of African American life.

"The Road to Jim Crow" is a masterful blend of scholarship and insightful analysis. It is at once engrossing and informative. The history of the African American's quest for equality, especially politically, is fascinating--and, more important, provides a window into some of the peculiarities of the Eastern Shore mindset, particularly as relates to policy choices locally as well as statewide,” said African American Robert M. Bell, Chief Judge, Maryland Court of Appeals, retired.