



MEGAN PETERSON & REGGIE HAYWARD

July 30, 2016

InterContinental Chicago
Photography by KingenSmith

THE COUPLE Former NFL defensive end Reggie Hayward initially had a sour encounter at Lemon Bar in Florida when he first spotted his future wife—she was already on a date with someone else! Reggie's friend didn't think twice, grabbed Megan and said, "I have someone

who wants to meet you." Their paths happened to cross a few days later, and the pair became inseparable, culminating in a 2015 proposal, where Reggie had a princess-cut diamond ring delivered on a silver platter at Megan's birthday dinner. **THE DETAILS** The couple made things official a year later in the Grand Ballroom of the InterContinental Chicago, exchanging heartfelt vows before "jumping the broom"—a nod to African tradition that represents a sweeping away of the past. The couple also held a unity sand ceremony with Reggie's four children and Megan's son, allowing them to share in the magic of their parents' marriage.

THE PARTY Planner Frank J. Andonoplas, MWP, of Frank Event Design, florist Anthony Gowder and MDR Creative took the couple's peacock-inspired color palette to the next level, with the plume accent appearing throughout the evening. The party lasted until the morning hours, and the newlyweds jetted off to Cape Town, South Africa, for a dreamy three-week escape. —SC



From top: Megan and Reggie threw an over-the-top peacock-inspired bash in the InterContinental's Grand Ballroom; Frank Event Design and Anthony Gowder created dramatic tablescapes featuring tall arrangements of purple and green hydrangeas, deep blue delphiniums, dendrobium orchids and peacock plumes.

What We Learned

"Get a good wedding planner! Frank made our lives so much easier. Planning a wedding is too stressful to try to DIY if that's not your personality. A good planner saves so much time and money in the long run," shares Megan.

WEDDING RESOURCES

Venue InterContinental Chicago, icchicagohotel.com
Planner Frank J. Andonoplas, MWP, Frank Event Design, frankeventdesign.com
Flowers Anthony Gowder Designs, anthonygowder.com
Decor & Lighting MDR Creative, mdrcreativeinc.com
Bride's Gown Galia Lahav, galialahav.com
Bride's Shoes Christian Louboutin, us.christianlouboutin.com
Bridesmaids' Dresses La Femme, lafemmefashion.com

Groom's Tux Nicholas Joseph, customsuitsyou.com
Cake Bittersweet, bittersweetpastry.com
Music Ceremony: Penny Currier, pennycurrier.com; reception: Spoken Four, chicago-bands.com; Charizma Entertainment, doyouhavecharizma.com
Rentals Tablescapes, tablescapes.com
Hair & Makeup Hair: Roger Gumm, Colette Salon & Spa, colettesalonspa.net; makeup: Lynda Esparza, lyndaesparza.com



From above: Megan wore sparkly peep-toe Louboutins and gifted each of her bridesmaids a pair of Jimmy Choo's; MDR Creative used video mapping to project dreamy lightscapes onto the couple's oversized all-white cake.