

FRANKLIN H. WILLIAMS JUDICIAL COMMISSION ON MINORITIES

Is Pleased to invite
you to a conference—

Race, Law AND THE Courts: FRAMING THE DISCUSSION

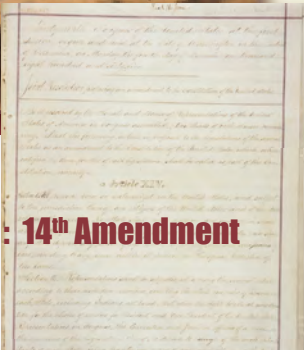
FOR A Post Racial America



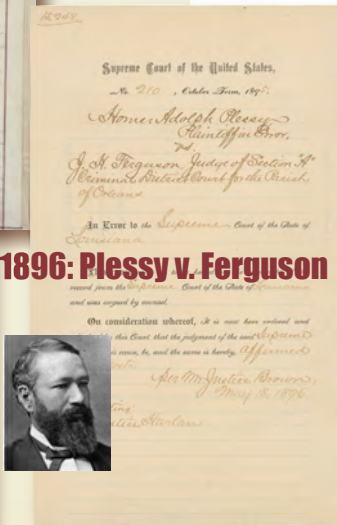
1857: Dred
Scott v. Sanford



1868: 14th Amendment



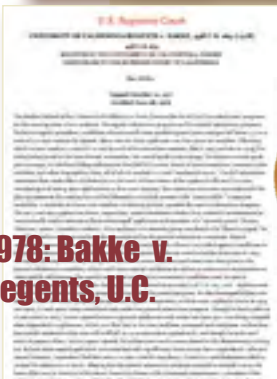
1896: Plessy v. Ferguson



1954: Brown v. Board of Education



1978: Bakke v.
Regents, U.C.



Nov. 4,
2008:

Barack H. Obama
President of the United States



Keynote speaker **Donna Brazile** will join moderator **Juan González** and other distinguished panelists to discuss the relevance of race in America and its impact on the courts and the legal system.

Afternoon breakout workshops will focus on—

- Wrongful Convictions and Remedies
- Law School Admission/ Bar Passage Rate
- Diversity in the Judiciary
- New York State Juvenile Justice
- Police Strategies and Minority Communities

CONFERENCE DATE:

Wednesday, June 16, 2010

LOCATION:

**NEW YORK LAW SCHOOL
185 WEST BROADWAY, NYC 10013**

(Corner of West Broadway and Leonard Street)

For Information and Online Registration Visit:

www.nycourts.gov/ip/minorities/

Chief Judge of the State of New York



Jonathan Lippman

April 22, 2010

Dear Colleague:

For the past twenty years, the Franklin H. Williams Commission on Minorities has been an integral part of the New York State Judiciary's efforts to ensure equal justice. Indeed, the Commission has become a national model for how state court systems can work effectively to address issues of concern to minority employees, litigants and communities.

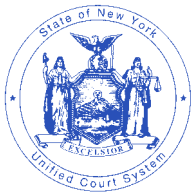
On June 16th, the Commission will host its annual conference at New York Law School, focusing on *Race, Law and the Courts: Framing the Discussion for a Post Racial America*. Featuring a number of nationally renowned speakers, this promises to be a very stimulating and important dialogue on the relevance of race in the American legal system, including issues such as law school admissions and bar passage rates, police strategies and minority communities, juvenile justice reform, wrongful convictions and judicial diversity.

We hope that you will be able to join us at the upcoming Conference as we in the justice system continue working together to find solutions to the perennial challenge of ensuring fair and equal treatment in our society.

We look forward to seeing you on June 16th.

Very truly yours,

Jonathan Lippman



Franklin H. Williams Judicial Commission on Minorities

25 BEAVER STREET - ROOM 861, NEW YORK, NY 10004, PHONE: 212-428-2790, FAX: 212-428-2792

Hon. Rose H. Sconiers, *Chair*

Hon. Ariel E. Belen, *Vice-Chair*

Joyce Y. Hartsfield, *Executive Director*

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Nadine C. Johnson, Esq. • Lenore Kramer, Esq. • Hon. yvonne lewis • Hon. Doris Ling-Cohan • Major Eric Long • Hon. Richard B. Lowe III
Hon. Langston McKinney • Hon. Stephen Miller • René Myatt, Esq. • Hon. Eduardo Padró • Dr. Maria Ramirez • Hon. Robert E. Torres
Marilyn Vializ • Adrienne Williams, Esq. • Hon. Troy K. Webber • Hon. Lewis L. Douglass, *Chair Emeritus* • Karlene Dennis, *Counsel*

Dear Colleagues:

As a nation, we have undoubtedly overcome some racial barriers, achieving a number of firsts in recent years, most notably the election of our premier African-American president in November 2008. With the initial euphoria surrounding President Obama's election came the phrase "post-racial America," signifying a society where race and racism are no longer relevant. Although the title of today's conference incorporates this newly coined phrase, we know from the surge in hate crimes and racial incidents following President Obama's inauguration—and the economic and other disparities communities of color continue to endure—that race and racism, regrettably, are still very relevant in our society. While we celebrate how far we have come, we must not lose sight of how far we have yet to go.

A recent National Urban League report that measured disparities between African-Americans, Hispanics and whites in health, education and other critical areas found significantly higher child obesity and high school dropout rates among African-Americans and Hispanics than whites. The areas where inequality remained the greatest, though, were economics and social justice: with African-Americans and Hispanics more than three times as likely to live below poverty level as whites; Hispanics three times more likely to be incarcerated than whites; and African-Americans six times more likely to be incarcerated as whites. It is also significant to note that 26 percent of Asian Pacific Americans live in poverty, the second highest of all racial groups in New York City.

Until we live in a society where inequities like these are not tolerated, the conversation about the impact that race, racism and ethnic-based discrimination have on our legal system—and in our everyday lives—must continue.

At the afternoon workshops, we will examine strategies for closing this incarceration gap, reducing the high percentage of minority youngsters in our foster care and juvenile justice systems, and enhancing diversity on the bench and in the legal profession. I look forward to conferring with you on these crucial issues and to the progress spawned by our ongoing dialogue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rose H. Sconiers".

Hon. Rose H. Sconiers

Commission Chair

Associate Justice, Appellate Division, 4th Department

CONFERENCE AGENDA

**Race, Law and the Courts:
FRAMING THE DISCUSSION FOR A
Post Racial America**

PROGRAM: JUNE 16, 2010

8:15 A.M. – 8:55 A.M.

Registration

9:00 A.M. – 9:15 A.M.

Opening Remarks

Hon. Rose H. Sconiers

*Associate Justice, Appellate Division,
4th Department
Chair, Franklin H. Williams Judicial
Commission on Minorities*

Richard A. Matasar

Dean and President, New York Law School

9:15 A.M. – 9:30 A.M.

**Welcome and Introduction of Keynote
Speaker**

Hon. Ann Pfau

*Chief Administrative Judge of New York State
Unified Court System*

Hon. Jonathan Lippman

Chief Judge, New York State Court of Appeals

9:30 A.M. – 10:40 A.M.

Keynote Speaker

Donna Brazile

*Democratic Political Strategist, Author, "Cook-
ing with Grease", Brazile & Associates, LLC*

10:40 A.M. – 11:00 A.M.

Book signing by Donna Brazile

11:00 A.M. – 1:00 P.M.

**Race, Law and the Courts:
Discussion of a Post Racial America**

*Panelists will discuss the relevance of race in
America and its impact on the courts, the legal
system and the community. Panelists and Audience
will have Q&A.*

MODERATOR:

Juan Gonzalez

Journalist, New York Daily News

PANELISTS:

Angelo Falcón

*President, National Institute for
Latino Policy*

Professor Sherrilyn Ifill

University of Maryland School of Law

Professor Joseph Knight

Seattle University School of Law

Stan Mark, Esq.

*Senior Staff Attorney, Asian American Legal
Defense and Education Fund*

Cesar A. Perales

President, LatinoJustice PRLDEF

Professor Amy Wax

University of Pennsylvania Law School

1:00 P.M. – 2:00 P.M.

Recess

2:10 P.M. – 3:45 P.M.

Breakout Workshops: A, B, C, D, E

Descriptions of breakout workshops on next page.

BREAKOUT WORKSHOPS: 2:10 P.M. – 3:45 P.M.

A. Wrongful Convictions and Remedies

Wrongful convictions erode the public's confidence in the judicial system and cost taxpayers millions of dollars. This workshop will examine the causes for wrongful convictions with the aim of identifying factors that contribute to the conviction of innocent individuals. We will also examine the current strategies to prevent wrongful convictions and remedies available to those wrongly convicted.

MODERATOR:

Vincent E. Doyle III, Esq.
Partner, Connors & Vilardo LLP

PANELISTS:

Hon. Theodore T. Jones
Associate Judge Court of Appeals /
Co-Chair of the Justice Task Force

Stephen Saloom
Policy Director, Innocence Project

Hon. Daniel M. Donovan
District Attorney, Richmond County

B. Law School Admission/ Bar Passage Rate

This workshop will explore the ramifications that Supreme Court decisions since *Bakke* have had on minority students admissions into law school. Discussions will also include the criteria law schools are applying in their admissions process. And finally, what impact, if any, is race a factor in the bar passage rates.

MODERATOR:

Prof. Stephanie Phillips
University of Buffalo School of Law

PANELISTS:

Prof. Conrad Johnson
Columbia Law School

Prof. Joseph Knight
Seattle University School of Law

Prof. Jenny Rivera
City University of New York
Law School

C. Diversity in the Judiciary

This panel will explore diversity in the judiciary. Some of the issues explored will include: Is diversity in judiciary desirable? Have we achieved diversity? Should judicial screening panels promote diversity? Do judicial screening panels promote or hinder diversity? Is there an under-representation of women of color in the judiciary (state and federal)?

MODERATOR:

Nadine C. Johnson, Esq.
Court Attorney,
Kings County Criminal Court

PANELISTS:

Norman L. Greene
Partner, Schoeman, Updike &
Kaufman, LLP

Peter J. Kiernan, Esq.
Counsel to the Governor State of
New York

**Hon. George Bundy Smith,
Esq.**

Partner, Chadbourne & Parke LLP-
Former Associate Judge, NYS Court
of Appeals / Independent Judicial
Election Qualification Commissions,
Chair, 1st J.D.

Mary Marsh Zulack
Director of Clinical Programs
Columbia Law School

D. New York State Juvenile Justice

This workshop will explore the recent reports and findings related to our juvenile justice system, whether race is a factor or not, and any possible suggestions going forward.

MODERATOR:

Hon. Eduardo Padró
Supreme Court Justice, 1st J.D.

PANELISTS:

**Commissioner Gladys
Carrión, Esq.**
New York State Office of Children and
Family Services

Hon. Michael Corriero

Executive Director, Big Brothers Big
Sisters of New York City

Hon. Edwina Richardson- Mendelson

Administrative Judge, New York City
Family Courts

E. Police Strategies and Minority Communities

This panel will look at the broader theme of a "Post Racial America" and how it applies to the day to day realities and complexities of policing strategies and communities of color. Is race at all relevant or have we transcended race in policing crime in communities of color, and most especially in poorer communities. We expect the panelists to explore such areas as stop and frisk, racial profiling, police shootings and any other relevant issues, including possible solutions to any perceived persistent problems.

MODERATOR:

Hon. Richard B. Lowe III
Supreme Court Justice, 1st J.D.

PANELISTS:

Michael A. Hardy, Esq.
Executive Vice President and
General Counsel, National Action
Network

Donna Lieberman

Executive Director, New York Civil
Liberties Union (NYCLU)

Heather Mac Donald

John M. Olin Fellow, Manhattan Insti-
tute for Policy Research

Anthony Miranda

Executive Chairman, National Latino
Officers Association of America

3:45 P.M. – 4:10 P.M.

Report from Workshops

Hon. Doris Ling-Cohan

Supreme Court Justice, 1st J.D.
Program Chair, Franklin H. Williams
Judicial Commission on Minorities

COMMISSION MEMBERS:

Hon. Rose H. Sconiers
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Vice Chair
Chair, Diversity Awards
Committee

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Chair Emeritus

T. Andrew Brown, Esq.

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Hon. Kathie Davidson

William H. Etheridge
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Co-chair, Liaison with Community
Organizations Committee

Joyce Y. Hartsfield
Executive Director

Karlene A. Dennis, Esq.
Associate Counsel



STANDING- (left to right)

Hon. Kathie Davidson, Hon. Stephen Miller, Felix C. Fernandez, Nadine C. Johnson, Esq., Hon. Robert E. Torres, Hon. Eduardo Padro, Marilyn Vializ, T. Andrew Brown, Esq., Hon. George B. Daniels, Hon. Doris Ling-Cohan, Major Eric Long, Adrienne Williams, Esq., Hon. Troy K. Webber, William H. Etheridge, Rene Myatt, Esq.

SEATED- (left to right)

Karlene A. Dennis, Esq., Hon. Ariel E. Belen (Vice-Chair), Hon. Rose H. Sconiers (Chair), Joyce Y. Hartsfield, Hon. yvonne lewis