

Program

All Deliberate Speed: Brown II, the Promise Deferred

Monday October 31, 2005



CLE Credit

If you would like to earn Continuing Legal Education credits (CLE) for attending this symposium, please register in the front lobby before each portion of the symposium.

11 a.m.

Welcome

Mac A. Stewart, Special Assistant to the President for Diversity and Vice Provost for Minority Affairs

Introduction of the Speaker

Nancy Rogers, Dean, Moritz College of Law

Speaker

Robert L. Carter, United States District Judge, Southern District of New York

Q&A Session

Moderated by Sharon Davies, Associate Dean for Faculty, Moritz College of Law

Closing Remarks

John A. Powell, Kirwan Institute Executive Director, Williams Chair in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Moritz College of Law

2:30 p.m.

Welcome

John A. Powell, Kirwan Institute Executive Director, Williams Chair in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Moritz College of Law

Panel Facilitator

Valerie Lee, Chair, Department of English

2:40–3:30 p.m.

Panel

Jefferson A. Thomas
Lewis Steel
Catherine Lhamon

3:35–4:25 p.m.

Panel

Luvern L. Cunningham
Denise C. Morgan
Thomas Saenz

Q&A Session

Closing Remarks

John A. Powell, Kirwan Institute Executive Director, Williams Chair in Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, Moritz College of Law



Robert L. Carter

The Honorable Robert L. Carter served as assistant special counsel for the NAACP from 1945 to 1956 and as general counsel from 1956 to 1968. During this time, he argued and won 21 of 22 cases before the U.S. Supreme Court, including *Brown v. Board of Education*, the celebrated case outlawing segregation in the nation's public schools. His recently published memoir, *A Matter of Law: A Memoir of Struggle in the Cause of Equal Rights*, offers

a rare personal testimony of how the legal campaign in *Brown* was mounted. It is a gripping story of assault and counter-assault as Judge Carter and his associates fought segregationist attacks against the NAACP in the wake of the *Brown* victory.

Judge Carter is a graduate of Lincoln University, the Howard University School of Law, and Columbia University Law School. He is also the recipient of numerous honorary degrees and awards, including the NAACP's 2004 Spingarn Medal. His writings have been published in *The Humanist*, *Saturday Review*, and the *Washington Post*, as well as in the law reviews of Harvard University, New York University, University of Michigan, and Washington University.



Valerie Lee

Valerie Lee is a professor of English and Women's Studies and chair of the Department of English at Ohio State. She is the author of numerous articles on feminist theory, African American literature, folklore, and multiculturalism. Among her books are *Granny Midwives and Black Women Writers: Double-Dutched Readings* (1996) and *The Prentice Hall Anthology of African American Women Writers* (2005). She teaches such courses

as Critical Race Feminisms, Women Writers of the Harlem Renaissance, Theorizing Gender Representations, Women Writing the Civil Rights Movement, and The Oral Tradition and African American Fiction. For the past two summers, she has team-taught a course with Professor of Law Vincene Verdun on law and narrative. Lee also chairs the University Council on Diversity, serves as a fellow and board member of the Center for Interdisciplinary Law and Policy Studies, and holds courtesy appointments in the Departments of Comparative Studies, African American and African Studies, and the Center for Folklore Studies.



Luvern L. Cunningham

Luvern L. Cunningham served as dean of the College of Education at The Ohio State University and, prior to that, as director of the Midwest Administration Center at the University of Chicago. During his tenure as dean, the College of Education consistently ranked first, second, or third nationally for its programs.

Cunningham's research interests have always been interdisciplinary. His writing about reconstituting local government for well-being and education attracted attention in the early years of national interest in intergovernmental collaboration. During the implementation of the Columbus Public Schools desegregation case, he served as special master-commissioner, working under the direction of Federal Judge Robert Duncan. He also worked on desegregation issues in Detroit and St. Louis. Other interests embrace the American school superintendency, new approaches to governance, school desegregation, and interprofessional education and practice.



Catherine Lhamon

Catherine Lhamon is the racial justice director at the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Southern California, where she specializes in race-based civil rights cases, education reform, and issues of police practices. Lhamon has focused most of her time at the ACLU on a statewide class action, *Williams v. State of California*, the recent

settlement of which ensures that all California public school students have access at least to such educational essentials as textbooks, trained teachers, and safe and uncrowded school facilities.

California Lawyer magazine honored Lhamon as an Attorney of the Year for Civil Rights in 2004. Before coming to the ACLU of Southern California, Lhamon was a supervising attorney in the Appellate Litigation Program at the Georgetown University Law Center. Immediately after law school, Lhamon clerked for Judge William A. Norris on the United States Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit. Lhamon received her J.D. from Yale Law School and her B.A. from Amherst College.



Denise C. Morgan

Denise C. Morgan teaches federal courts, civil procedure, evidence, education policy and the law, and a seminar on race and American history at New York Law School. Morgan's recent activities include representing the black, Puerto Rican, and Hispanic legislative caucus in *Campaign for Fiscal Equity v. New York State*, the state school financing litigation. She is the principal editor of *Awakening from the Dream: Civil Rights Under Siege and the new Struggle for Equal Justice*, a book that exposes how the Supreme Court's federalism revolution has rolled back civil rights.

Prior to joining the New York Law School faculty in 1995, Morgan practiced in the litigation department of Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen and Hamilton, clerked for Judge Marilyn Hall Patel on the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California, and was an associate professor at Florida State Law School. She received her B.A. from Yale College in 1986 and her J.D. from Yale Law School in 1990.



Thomas A. Saenz

In August 2005, Thomas A. Saenz became counsel to the mayor of the City of Los Angeles, where he serves as a member of Mayor Antonio Villaraigosa's executive team. Previously, Saenz worked for the Mexican American Legal Defense and Educational Fund, a national organization dedicated to securing and promoting the civil rights of Latinos in the United States. Saenz served as lead counsel in numerous civil rights cases involving such issues as educational equity, employment discrimination, immigrants' rights, day laborer rights, and voting rights. He served as MALDEF's lead counsel in successfully challenging California's Proposition 187 in court; as such, he presented extensive arguments on numerous occasions in three different cases involving the anti-immigrant initiative.

Saenz graduated summa cum laude from Yale University and received his law degree from Yale Law School. He then served as law clerk for the Honorable Harry L. Hupp of the U.S. District Court for the Central District of California and to the Honorable Stephen Reinhardt of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit.



Lewis M. Steel

Lewis M. Steel is Of Counsel to Outten & Golden LLP. His precedent-setting employment discrimination decisions include *Sumitomo Shoji America, Inc. v. Avagliano*, 457 U.S. 176, which established that American subsidiaries of foreign corporations must obey American civil rights laws. In this and other employment discrimination class actions, he negotiated far-reaching settlements and monitored the companies' performance.

Before joining Outten & Golden, Steel also handled a wide range of civil rights cases involving housing and zoning discrimination, as well as police brutality and criminal cases. Steel, who began his career on the legal staff of the NAACP, is a past president of the New York City chapter of the National Lawyers Guild and has served on the board of directors of the New York County Lawyers Association. Steel graduated from Harvard College and from New York Law School, which in 1997 awarded him an honorary Doctor of Laws degree for his civil rights work.



Jefferson A. Thomas

After the U.S. Supreme Court's ban on public school segregation (*Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*), 15-year-old Jefferson A. Thomas volunteered to desegregate the all-white Central High School in Arkansas along with a group of eight other black students, now known as the "Little Rock Nine." Facing this historical challenge with dignity and humor, Thomas graduated from Central High School in May 1960 and entered Wayne State University in

Detroit. He then spent time in Vietnam as an Army squad leader.

In addition to breaking down racial barriers, Thomas committed his life to civil service by working at the Department of Defense for 27 years, which brought him to Columbus, Ohio. A volunteer, an activist, and a mentor, Thomas has received numerous awards, including the Congressional Gold Medal in 1999. He continues to be an inspiration by speaking at high schools and universities across the country and by mentoring young people.