

## SYMPOSIUM

### RACE JURISPRUDENCE AND THE SUPREME COURT: WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

#### FOREWORD

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Our lives begin to end the day we become silent about things that matter.  
—Martin Luther King, Jr.

With the fiftieth anniversary of *Brown v. Board of Education*<sup>1</sup> approaching, it was important to reflect on the impact the Supreme Court's race jurisprudence has had on our country. The Symposium provided a unique opportunity to bring people together to engage in a candid dialogue on the race jurisprudence of the Supreme Court, while allowing us to rethink race jurisprudence for the future.

Many believe that because we have come a long way in the fight for equality, the fight is over. But no matter how far we have come, we still have a long road to traverse, which is why it is absolutely necessary to continue the discourse on race and the law. It was my *hope* that by bringing people together to participate in a discussion on race jurisprudence the Symposium would further this aim.

But my *goal* for the Symposium was a whole other matter. As a law student of color, passionate about issues of race and the law, I needed to do my part to continue the dialogue for those of us who were starved for it. There is little opportunity for law students throughout the country to talk about these issues in class or attend courses on Critical Race Theory or Race, Racism, and the Law. It is *this* absence of discussion that creates a lack of awareness, and we desperately need people to be exposed to these issues if we are ever to progress beyond the point we are at now. This is not the first Symposium or conference on the intersection of race and the law, nor will it be the last. But as long as the writing and the speaking continue we can remain hopeful that there will never be an end to our movement towards true change.

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<sup>1</sup> 347 U.S. 483 (1954).

The Symposium was also intended to highlight the diverse and unique legal perspectives of Critical Race Theorists and race jurisprudence scholars. Given that legal scholarship needs to reflect the perspectives of people of color, especially when the rights of people of color are at issue, the pieces that follow reflect these different perspectives.

It was an honor to be able to organize the Symposium, to be able to pour my passion for issues of race into something concrete. But all the zeal in the world would not have allowed me to accomplish this goal alone. I am eternally and wholeheartedly grateful to the 2003–2004 *Journal of Constitutional Law* board of editors, the senior editors and associate editors, and the faculty members and staff who helped make my vision a reality. Special thanks go to Regina Austin, Julie Colleluori, Maivân Clech Lãm, Ariella Feingold, Ernie Gonsalves, Marc Aaron Melzer, Carlos Montoya, Joe Policarpo, and last, but certainly not least, my mom, for constantly inspiring me to make the world a better place, and reminding me that I have the ability to do so. I also extend my gratitude to the 2004–2005 *Journal of Constitutional Law* board of editors and associate editors for their hard work in assembling and editing this Symposium issue. Finally, I would like to acknowledge the Symposium participants whose contributions made the Symposium a meaningful and inspirational experience for everyone involved—thank you for continuing the discourse, it is the only way we can bring about substantive change.