

Nebraska's Legal Diversity Summit Set for Tomorrow at Doubletree Hotel

By Lorraine Boyd
The Daily Record

On Friday, Sept. 14, Nebraska's legal community will sponsor its 3rd Annual Legal Diversity Summit at the Doubletree Hotel at 1616 Dodge Street in Omaha.

More than 200 participants, including Nebraska's legal employers, and law students of color from Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri, Colorado, South Dakota, North Dakota and Wyoming, will be in attendance.

The keynote speaker for the summit is Theodore Shaw, director-counsel and president of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund. Shaw has directed LDF's education docket and litigated school desegregation, capital punishment, and other civil rights cases throughout the country. Shaw was lead counsel in a coalition that represented African-American and Latino student-intervenors in the University of Michigan undergraduate affirmative action admissions case.

In 2003, the U.S. Supreme Court heard that case, along with one challenging the use of affirmative action at the University of Michigan Law School. The Court ruled in favor of diversity as a compelling state interest.

Shaw graduated from Wesleyan University with honors and from the Columbia University School of Law, where he was a Charles Evans Hughes Fellow. Upon graduation, Shaw worked as a trial attorney in the



Theodore Shaw

Civil Rights Division of the United States Department of Justice from 1979 until 1982 in Washington, D.C. He litigated civil rights cases throughout the country at the trial and appellate levels, and in the U.S. Supreme Court. Shaw resigned from the Justice Department in protest of the Reagan Administration's civil rights policies.

Shaw has testified before Congress and before state legislatures on numerous occasions. He has been a frequent guest on television and radio programs, and has published numerous newspaper, magazine and law review articles. He also has traveled and lectured extensively on civil rights and human rights in Europe, South Africa, South America, and Japan. He currently serves on the Legal Advisory Network of the European Roma Rights Council, based in Budapest, Hungary.

The National Bar Association Young Lawyers Division re-

cently presented Shaw with the A. Leon Higginbotham, Jr. Memorial Award. He also received the Lawrence A. Wein Prize for Social Justice from Columbia University. Further, he was awarded the Baldwin Medal, the highest honor given by the Wesleyan University alumni body, for extraordinary service to the University and the public interest. He served on the Wesleyan Board of Trustees for 15 years, and was senior vice chair of the board when he retired from the board in June 2003.

Shaw is a member of the bar in New York and in California, and is admitted to practice before the U.S. District Courts for the Central and Northern Districts of California, the U.S. Courts of Appeals for the Fifth, Sixth, Eighth, Ninth, Tenth and Eleventh Circuits, and the United States Supreme Court. He is an adjunct professor of law at Columbia Law School, and the second appointee to the Phyllis Beck Chair at Temple Law School, which he held during the 2003 spring semester. He was the second recipient of the Haywood Burns Chair in Civil Rights at CUNY School of Law, which he held for the 1997-1998 academic year.

Summit Schedule

The legal diversity summit is an annual event designed to promote diversity in Nebraska's legal profession. In addition to hearing one of the legal profession's most prominent speakers, this half day event will include

interviews between Nebraska legal employers and law students of color from the region, opportunities for lateral hire interviews, sessions on professional development and "expanding the pipeline," and a networking reception for participating law students, attorneys and legal employers.

At 11:30, recruiting partners and all interested registrants can attend a luncheon, featuring speaker Carlos Rodriguez, chair of the Sidley Austin LLP Committee on Racial and Ethnic Diversity.

The keynote address is at 1 p.m. in the Grand Ball Room East. Following that, from 2:30 to 4:30 p.m., participating law students of color from eight Midwestern states will be involved in the interview process. Concurrently, there will be sessions in "Professional Development through Bar Associations" (2:30 to 3:30 p.m.) and "Expanding the Pipeline" (3:30 to 4:30 p.m.). The networking reception is from 4:30 to 6 p.m. in the foyer.

Summit sponsors include Baird Holm Law Firm, Union Pacific, Stinson Morrison Hecker LLP, Blackwell Sanders, the University of Nebraska College of Law and Creighton University School of Law, Fraser Stryker PC LLO, and Legal Aid of Nebraska.

Registration is available online at www.nelegaldiversity.org.

Lane Lecture

Theodore Shaw is the Lane Lecture speaker at Creighton University's Ahmanson Law Center today at 4 p.m. His lecture will be followed by a reception in Sneider Commons at 5 p.m.

Harvard Law Professor to Participate In Legal Diversity Summit, and Visit Nebraska and Creighton Law Schools

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This Friday, Nebraska's legal community will sponsor its 2nd Annual Legal Diversity Summit at the Doubletree Hotel, 16th and Dodge. More than 150 participants, including Nebraska's legal employers and law students of color from Nebraska, Iowa, Kansas, Missouri and South Dakota will attend.

The summit will feature Harvard Law Professor Charles Ogletree, author of *All Deliberate Speed: Reflections on the First Half Century of Brown v. Board of Education*, and the book *From Lynch Mobs to the Killing State: Race and the Death Penalty in America*. Ogletree is one of the legal profession's most prominent speakers, the founding and executive director of the Charles Hamilton



Prof. Charles Ogletree

Houston Institute for Race and Justice. He was named one of the 100+ Most Influential Black Americans by *Ebony Magazine*.

The annual event is designed to

promote diversity in Nebraska's legal profession. In addition to a book signing and Ogletree's keynote address, the summit will feature panel discussions on improving efforts to recruit and retain attorneys of color and on "expanding the pipeline" of diverse applicants to law school; interview sessions between Nebraska legal employers and regional law students; and a networking reception.

Ogletree will also be making presentations at the University of Nebraska College of Law and Creighton University School of Law during his visit to Nebraska.

He will give the Lane Lecture on *Race and the Death Penalty* at 4 p.m. Friday, Oct. 6, at the Ahmanson Law Center at Creighton. His talk will be followed by a book signing.